TUESDAY
March 11, 2025

BENGALURU
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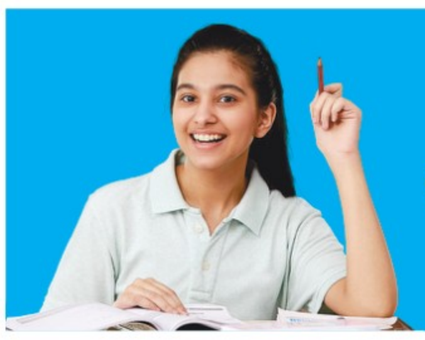

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***Real wage stagnation***

*In recent years, income levels of salaried class have not gone up*

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**Pranav keen to play in Candidates event**

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# Union Minister, DMK MPs spar in Lok Sabha

**Sandeep Phukan**
NEW DELHI

**Major uproar:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan speaking in the Lok Sabha on Monday. PTI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's comment in the Lok Sabha on Monday that the Tamil Nadu government had taken a "U-turn" on the issue of the National Education Policy for "politics" and was "dishonest" in implementing the PM Schools for Rising India scheme led to an uproar, with DMK MPs disrupting the proceedings for half an hour.

"They are dishonest and they are ruining the future of the students of Tamil Nadu ... they are misleading the people," Mr. Pradhan said while replying to a query on the Centre not releasing funds for the PM SHRI scheme.

DMK member Kanimozhi hit back by moving a notice of breach of privilege against Mr. Pradhan for making "highly malicious, misleading and defamatory" remarks.

"The Hon'ble Minister used intemperate remarks such as 'mislead', 'dishonest', 'undemocratic', and 'uncivilised' against me and my parliamentary colleagues from the DMK and other supporting parties and also made baseless accusations against an entire group of elected representatives from Tamil Nadu, which in turn reflects the people of Tamil Nadu," she said in her notice.

Even before the privilege notice was moved, the Minister had withdrawn an objectionable word he used and Speaker Om Birla expunged it from the records.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

## Stalin condemns Union Minister's remarks in LS

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, reacting to the controversial remarks made by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the Lok Sabha on Monday, said the Minister should "mind his tongue." He wanted to know whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoned the comments "insulting the people of the State."

DMK cadre condemned Mr. Pradhan and took to the streets in several areas across the State.

# Talks yield no result, highways remain blocked in Manipur

Govt. officials say 'free movement' of vehicles will resume once situation normalises; Kuki-Zo groups say the indefinite shutdown will continue

**Vijaita Singh**
IMPHAL

Security personnel standing guard during an indefinite shutdown by the Kuki Zo Council in all the Kuki areas, in Manipur. FILE PHOTO

As the two National Highways in Manipur remained blocked for the third day on Monday, officials said the "free movement" of all vehicles between the valley and the hills would resume once the situation normalised.

The Committee on Tribal Unity on Monday had a meeting with district administration officials in Kangpokpi regarding the opening of roads, which did not lead to any result.

It has demanded that the government apologise for the March 8 violence and seek the resignation of Superintendent of Police Manoj Prabhakar. Kuki-Zo groups said the indefinite shutdown would continue.

Government officials said Kuki-Zo civil society groups had agreed to the smooth plying of Manipur State Transport buses on March 7, a day before the vehicles came under attack in the hill district of Kangpokpi, leading to violent clashes with the Central security forces, which left one dead. A Kuki-Zo representative in Kangpokpi, however, said they had consented only to the movement of "empty" buses.

"The Kuki-Zo groups had agreed that they will let the MST bus pass through the hills. However, a rally called by a Meitei group to march towards the hills around the same time may have triggered the violence. There were two Meitei passengers on the bus who were removed just before the vehicle entered Kangpokpi," said a senior government official.

The bus, which started from the Imphal airport on March 8, was to pass through Kangpokpi (Kuki-Zo area) and reach Senapati district (Naga-dominated) as per the plan.

Unlike earlier, the movement of commercial goods vehicles through National Highways no. 2 and 37 has been halted since the March 8 violence.

Asked why the movement of MST buses is vital, the official said, "The valley areas [where the Meiteis live] are landlocked. Not everyone can afford the aerial route to move out of the State. People may travel to Dimapur and take a train or bus to reach other parts of the country."

## NEARBY

### ₹20,000 cr. BBMP budget likely

BENGALURU
The BBMP 2025-26 budget is expected to touch up to ₹20,000 crore, driven by enhanced State and Central grants and improved revenue collection, according to sources in the civic body's Finance Department. » PAGE 2

### MFIs: Assembly adopts Bill

BENGALURU
The Karnataka Assembly on Monday adopted the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill that seeks to replace an Ordinance promulgated earlier to protect defaulters from harassment by MFIs. » PAGE 6

### Council passes palace Bill

BENGALURU
Amid allegations of "political vendetta" and a walkout by the Opposition members, the Legislative Council on Monday passed the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Bill, 2025. » PAGE 6

## *Honouring traditions*

**That time of the year:** The Badagas of Nilgiris celebrating the Jadayaswamy festival at Jackanarai village near Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu on Monday. People from eight villages take out a procession to the Jadayaswamy temple and perform a firewalk ritual every year. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

# Mark Carney set to replace Trudeau as PM of Canada

**Associated Press**
TORONTO

Mark Carney

Former central banker Mark Carney will become Canada's next Prime Minister after the governing Liberal Party elected him its leader on Sunday.

He is taking charge at a time when the country deals with U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war and annexation threat, and a federal election looms.

Mr. Carney, 59, replaces Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who announced his resignation in January but will remain in the post until his successor is sworn-in. Mr. Carney won by a landslide, winning 85.9% of the votes.

"Mr. Trump, as we know, has put unjustified tariffs on what we build, on what we sell and how we make a living. He's attacking Canadian families, workers and businesses and we cannot let him succeed and we won't," Mr. Carney said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12
'OPPORTUNITY FOR RESET' » PAGE 12

## Lalit Modi's Vanuatu passport to be 'cancelled'

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister of the Pacific island nation Vanuatu, Jotham Napat, on Monday ordered the cancellation of the passport that his government had issued to fugitive billionaire Lalit Modi. The decision came days after the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that Mr. Modi had sought cancellation of his Indian passport.

"I have instructed the Citizenship Commission to immediately begin proceedings to cancel Mr. Modi's Vanuatu passport," he said in a media release.

Mr. Napat said that the Vanuatuan passport for Mr. Modi, wanted in India for financial frauds, was issued after "all standard background checks, including Interpol screenings" and they went ahead with granting it to Mr. Modi after it was found that "Interpol had twice rejected India's requests to issue an alert notice on Mr. Modi due to lack of substantive judicial evidence".

Mr. Modi is wanted in India but has lived out of the country since 2010.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

# Ranya Rao remanded in judicial custody for 14 days

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Even as the gold smuggling case involving Ranya Rao snowballed into a political controversy, with the Opposition alleging that she had the support of "a prominent Minister", the Kannada actor was produced before the Special Court for Economic Offences and was remanded in judicial custody for 14 days, on Monday. She was questioned by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in the smuggling case three days ago.

### Friend arrested

DRI officials on Monday arrested Tarun Raju, a friend of Ranya Rao, and took him into five days' custody to ascertain his role in the gold smuggling racket. He was earlier questioned based on an analysis of call record details, sources said. The friend is said to be related to the owner of a star hotel in Bengaluru.

Ranya Rao was arrested by the DRI after she was caught at the Kempegowda International Airport with 14.2 kg of gold bars worth ₹12.5 crore after landing from Dubai on March 3.

Ranya Rao

The worth of the total seizure in the case stands at ₹17.29 crore, and the DRI has said that the haul of 14.2 kg is one of the biggest seizures of gold at the KIA in recent times.

The actor is the stepdaughter of K. Ramachandra Rao, Director-General of Police, Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation. She allegedly used her stepfather's name to avail herself of the protocol facility at the airport to bypass security checks.

DRI officials who studied her travel history kept a watch and zeroed in on her soon after she landed at KIA from Dubai.

Ranya Rao, who was interrogated by the DRI for three days, was produced around 4 p.m. before the Special Court for Economic Offences. As the DRI didn't seek her further custody, the judge remanded her in judicial custody for 14 days.

Her bail application is likely to come up before the Special Court for Economic Offences on Tuesday. The CBI, which is also probing the case, is likely to seek her custody.

RELATED REPORTS » PAGE 5

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# Rahul — the quintessential team player who puts guts over glory

The keeper-batter, the lynchpin of the Men in Blue's unbeaten run in the Champions Trophy, has done yet another selfless act adapting to his role at No. 6, overcoming the constant yo-yoing and looks set for more laurels as the Indian white-ball juggernaut rolls on

GETTY IMAGES, PTI, AP

**R. Kaushik**

K.L. Rahul threw his head back, in quasi-disappointment. He had fairly *smashed* the ball, but he didn't get either the distance or the elevation he was looking for. As the ball went to deep mid-wicket on the bounce, he grimaced and ran a single. How he would have loved to have made sweeter contact for the ball to sail over the fence!

In the two previous successful chases that he had seen through to their logical end, Rahul had, to borrow a famous line from Ravi Shastri, 'finished things off in style.' Against Bangladesh in India's Champions Trophy opener, he drop-kicked Tanzim Hasan over long-leg. Against Australia in the semifinal, he charged and clattered Glenn Maxwell over long-on. Both sixes, both completing victories he had played a huge role in shaping. A hat-trick of winning sixes, the last of them to win the title, would have been in the fitness of things.

It wasn't to be, but hey, who cares, right? Rahul was there when the tape was breasted, when the New Zealand tally was overhauled, when the Champions Trophy was clinched. So what if Ravindra Jadeja, another of the unsung heroes, smacked the winning four? So what, really?

If there was a contest for yo-yoing within the Indian ranks, Rahul would triumph by a country mile. He may not want to, but he will, because he has yo-yoed so much within the playing XI that it has become second nature.

**Man for all seasons**

Want a middle-order wicketkeeper-batter in 50-over cricket? K.L. Rahul. Need someone to reprise a similar role in two away Tests in South Africa, in Rishabh Pant's absence? KL Rahul. Need a Test No. 4 because Virat Kohli is away on paternity leave? K.L. Rahul. A Test opener because Rohit Sharma is missing? K.L. Rahul. Someone to drop down to No. 6 in ODIs because Axar Patel's left-handedness is deemed more important? K.L. Rahul. At a stretch, the only thing Rahul hasn't done in international cricket is keep wicket to his own bowling. Impossible as that is, don't put it past Rahul being asked to do so. And actually ending up doing it.

Now in his 12th year in international cricket, Rahul has been there and done that. He became the quickest Indian to score a century in all three formats internationally, within 18 months of his maiden appearance for India in the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne in December 2014. He has led India in all three formats in a stand-in capacity, he has fulfilled every responsibility thrust on his shoulders, he has shouldered every burden conceivable. He is a veteran of 58 Tests, 85 ODIs and 72 T20Is. And while he might not — or he might, who knows? — entertain that notion, you can't help feel that few are deemed more dispensable than the 32-year-old from Bengaluru.

Rahul in full flight is just the most gorgeous sight on the cricket field. He has so much time on his hands, the one quality that separates the greats from even the very, very goods, but he hasn't so much as flirted with greatness. Maybe not even thought about it. Look at him easing into a Test innings, tight in defence and attractive and unfussed in stroke-play and you will be aghast when you pore over his numbers. An average of 33.57? Just eight hundreds in 58 games? Really, Rahul?

Really, yes. Perhaps because he hasn't had a settled position, perhaps he has been yo-yoed — that term again — around, yanked from one slot and thrust into the next, then uprooted from there and sent elsewhere. He has had backing, of that there is little doubt. But what use backing when there is a lack of consistency in the methodology. One of the great coaching philosophies revolves not just on opportunity, but the quality of the opportunity. That's something that has passed Rahul by.

But to his great credit, like his illustrious namesake from the same city, Rahul has never complained. Never moaned or cribbed. Never carped about being moved out of his comfort zone — does he even know what it is anymore? — or being asked to do this, that and the other. He has taken on every task manfully, without a raised eyebrow, without a frown, let alone a scowl. Maybe he has allowed himself to be taken for granted. That can happen, you know, when you have forgotten how to complain, how to play the system.

The perception about Rahul is far removed from reality. When he started the three-match ODI series at home against England last month, India's last tango before the Champions Trophy, as the preferred wicketkeeper-batter, everyone who had an opinion - which, in India, is everyone who knows the spelling of cricket and several others who don't know even that - was wondering why. Why Rahul? Why not Pant, the man with the X-Factor? The force of nature, irrepressible and untamed? What was Rahul doing in the XI with Pant on the sidelines?

The answer would've stared us in the face if we had gone looking, made even a token attempt to do so. At No. 5 in ODIs, Rahul averaged in the mid-50s, scored in the mid-90s for 100 balls faced. Pant's ODI numbers in 31 matches are 33.50 average, admittedly a superior strike-rate of 106.21. For all his pyrotechnics in Test cricket, Pant hasn't quite got a grip of white-ball ball-flaying.

But this isn't a 'who-is-stronger' debate. Or even discussion. For now, for the foreseeable future, Rahul should be the preferred ODI stumper batting at No. 5 or No. 6, which seems to be the position the current management group has zeroed in on for him. If Pant needs to be accommodated, it must be at the expense of someone else though who that someone else is will trigger a fresh headache.

Rahul's 'demotion' - if that's the right word - to No. 6 stemmed from the desire to have a left-hander, in this case Axar Patel, at No. 5. India chose to fix something that wasn't broken though they had done it with good reason, after a lot of thought and with sound logic. Rahul was included in the discussion because he needed to be. He had to grow comfortable with the idea of facing fewer balls in an innings, which would then mean he would have to change his mindset, his preparation, his approach to practice.

Always willing and able, Rahul took on the new challenge head-on. He didn't do the same thing expecting different results but practiced with smarts, replicating game situations to the extent that they can be in practice. He realised that there would be times when he would walk out with only five or six overs left, which then meant he could take little time to bed himself in. Therefore at nets, he started to whack balls out of the park from the get-go. Not just any balls, but ageing, softer orbs of the kind he would encounter at that stage of the innings. He finessed range-hitting into a fine art, raining down thunderous blows at the ICC Academy ground where India practiced *ad nauseum* between matches and periods of rest and recovery.

Rohit alluded to Rahul's calm head and the effect his presence has on the dugout. Rahul has been many things in the past - nervy and withdrawn and shell-locked at the top of the order in even T20s primary among them - but there is a certain composure to him now that's impossible to miss. He seems at peace, more than even before. His words are still measured but not steeped in caution or wariness. He is more trusting, a little more outgoing, a little less economical with his smiles. He is 32 and approaching that age where, if he isn't already there, batters hit their peak.

He already has 11 years of top-flight cricket under his belt and potentially another half-dozen ahead of him if he can keep the fire burning. Very soon, he will become the senior most Test batter and therefore will be expected to lead the way in so many different ways. He has convinced himself, as he should, that being asked to don different roles is a compliment to his versatility and his flexibility. It's a show of confidence in his skills, of course, but also in the ease with which he can adapt to new and unfamiliar situations. Instead of allowing his various ever-changing avatars to undermine his confidence, he has used it as the stepping stone to greater things.

At the Champions Trophy, Rahul was exceptional. During each of the three chases of which he was a part, there was plenty of work ahead of him when he strode out at four wickets down. Eighty-five needed against Bangladesh in 119 balls — plenty of time but India had just lost three for 32. Eighty-seven required against Australia in 90, in a knockout semifinal. And sixty-nine to get in 68 in the final, with the ball starting to play tricks.

Rahul played one get-out-of-jail short early in each of those chases, then knocked the ball around, pushed the singles, elicited the errors. He kept his wits about him, didn't overreach. In those three chases, he ended with 41 (47b), 42 (34b) and 34 (33b) respectively. He had kept more than competently and was Rohit's final go-to man when it came to DRS challenges, but it was as the great finisher at No. 6 that he was worth his weight in gold. Having batted at nets like he would in a match, he effortlessly made the switch under immense pressure, with so much on the line.

There was no glory medal or award — heck, not even a glory shot to win the title — but Rahul will tell you that he will take guts and victories ahead of glory. Every single day.

## THE GIST

- To his great credit, like his illustrious namesake from the same city, Rahul has never complained. Never moaned or cribbed. Never carped about being moved out of his comfort zone
- Rahul's 'demotion' — if that's the right word — to No. 6 stemmed from the desire to have a left-hander, in this case Axar, at No. 5. Always willing and able, Rahul took on the new challenge head-on
- Instead of allowing his various ever-changing avatars to undermine his confidence, he has used it as the stepping stone to greater things

## Karnataka Public Works Department

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, 4th Floor, PWD Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001

**No.: EIC/40/PRAMC/2024-25/1407** **Date: 07.03.2025**

### SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD invites short term tenders for 02 Road Safety Works in Tumkur and 01 Service in PRAMC Office. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and O/o. the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, Bengaluru from 07.03.2025, 5:30 p.m. onwards.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/LC/5560/2024-25

## Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority, Shivamogga.

Vinobanagar, 100 feet road, Shivamogga-577204.
Phone: 08182-249867 e-mail: sudashivamogga@gmail.com website: www.shivamogga.uda.gov.in

No.: SUDA/T.S./Tender/12/2024-25 Date: 07.03.2025

### e-Auction Notice

Competitive Rates of Interest are invited through e-auction from eligible Nationalised/Public Sector Banks in the limits of Shivamogga City for investment of additional funds of Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority in Fixed Deposits.

**Schedule**

**1.** Last date for tender Queries/ Clarifications: 15-03-2025 at 12.00 hrs **2.** Pre bid Meeting: 15-03-2025 at 12.00 hrs **3.** Last Date to Confirm Participation of Interest in Auction : 21-03-2025 on or before 16.00 hrs **4**. Date of Live bidding: 26-03-2025 at 11.00 hrs to 12.30hrs(Delta Time 5.00 Minutes)

Complete details regarding this can be downloaded through e-portal of GoK http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in If there are any changes related to this e-Auction, it will be published only in KPP Portal and any Newspaper notice will not be issued. For further details contact Help Desk No. 080-22340948, 080-4601000 and Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority phone no.: 08182-249867 and mobile no.: 8971132558 or 7337602223 during office hours.

**Sd/- Commissioner, Shivamogga – Bhadravathi Urban Development Authority, Shivamogga.**

DIPR/smg/No.72/03/ksmca/24-25/1841

## KARNATAKA SILK INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.

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**No. KSIC/PR/RTNDR/DSK,PRI,ND,AI,CH&ABD/2024-25 Date: 06.03.2025**

### RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

**(Through KPP Portal Only)**

TENDERS are invited from reputed manufacturers / stockists / dealers for Supply and Installation of following items for KSIC, Head Office, Units and KSIC Showrooms.

| Sl. No. | Item Required | Qty in Nos. | EMD in Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | New Computer Hardware System 64 bit | 3 | 4,000 |
| 2. | New Assembled Computer Hardware System 64 Bit | 1 | 2,500 |
| 3. | Printers | 5 | 2,000 |
| 4. | Fake Note Detectors | 2 | 1,000 |
| 5. | Aadhaar based Biometric Attendance Device under buy back of existing 23 Nos. of Bio Metric Esd Model No. MB20 | 37 | 7,000 |
| 6. | Almirah | 7 | 2,000 |
| 7. | Office Chairs | 4 | 1,000 |

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for uploading the tender along with EMD through KPP Portal is **20.03.2025 up to 3.00 P.M.** The Technical bids will be opened on **21.03.2025 at 03.30 P.M.** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or KPP Portal-helpdesk-080-46010000 and 080-68948777.

**Sd/-**
**GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)**

DIPR/CP/JA/5562/2024-25

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

**Office of the Executive Engineer,** Yelahanka division, Bangalore - 560064.

**No. BBMP/EE/YNK-D/KPPP/16/2024-25** **Date: 10.03.2025**

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Short Term Tender Notification)

(Through KPP Portal only) TWO COVER SYSTEM

**1.** . The Executive Engineer Yelahanka Division invites tenders on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract as per standard tender document KW-04, KW-03, KW-02. **2.** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16.00 hours on 24-03-2025** and the opening of tenders will be as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal guidelines**.3.** Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Works/Estimate Cost in Lakhs/ EMD in Lakhs./Category |
|---|---|
| 1 | Resurfacing of roads at Maruthinagara 3 rd main 6th, 7th and 8th cross roads in Kempegowda ward no -01. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **50.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **0.50** Category : **ST** |
| 2 | Resurfacing of roads at Dharmaraya temple road and Nagareshwara temple road in Kempegowda ward no -01. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **50.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **1.00** Category : **Others** |
| 3 | Resurfacing of roads at Munithimmaiah layout, Kondappa gardens main and cross roads in Kempegowda ward no -01. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **50.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **0.50** Category : **SC** |
| 4 | Resurfacing of roads at Maruthinagara 2nd main, 10th, 11th and 12th cross roads and Alpha school road in Kempegowda ward no -01. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **50.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **1.00** Category : **Others** |
| 5 | Resurfacing of roads at Surabhi layout 2nd cross roads in Kempegowda ward no-01. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **40.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **0.40** Category : **SC** |
| 6 | Resurfacing of roads at Manavarthi thota main and cross roads in Chowdeshwari ward no -02. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **60.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **1.20** Category : **Others** |
| 7 | Constructions of drains at Hariraja layout and Kaveri layout in Attur ward no -03. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **80.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **1.60** Category : **Others** |
| 8 | Resurfacing of roads at Lakshman reddy layout in Attur ward no-03. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **60.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **1.20** Category : **CAT-II(A)** |
| 9 | Improvement to roads and drains at Nanjundappa badavane in Yelahanka upanagara ward no -04. Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **60.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **1.20** Category : **CAT-I** |
| 10 | Improvements and development of parks in ward no:02,03 & 04 of Yelahanka Division . Estimate Cost in Lakhs : **300.00,** EMD in Lakhs : **4.50** Category : **Others** |

**Calendar Of Events :**

**1.** Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division) on **17-03-2025 at 16.00 hrs**

**2.** Date of Opening of Technical bids on : **25-03-2025 after 16:00 hours**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP**

## PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.

**Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001.**
**Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813**
**Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 96461-01116)**

**Tender Enquiry No. -05/G.C.D/T.S./PSPCL/2024-25** | **Dated: 10.03.2025**

Dy.CE/Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate no.1, PSPCL Ludhiana invites Open e-Tender for outsourcing work of erection, testing and commissioning of Additional 32 no. 20 MVA Power Transformers along with complete bay equipments on partial turnkey mode under RDSS scheme under Grid Construction Division Patiala, under Grid Const. Circle, Ludhiana. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 10.03.2025 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note:- Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/

**C-165/25** **76155/12/3994/2023/42400**

## RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

**(YERAMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)**
**(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF KPCL, BHEL)**
**CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582**

No.: EE(MSP)/YTPS/24-25/335 Date: 03.03.2025

### BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

RPCL invites bids from reputed agencies for the following procurement e-tenders for the following procruments at YTPS. **(1)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1523, 03.03.2025 for **Hydraulic filter elements and collectors. (2)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1524, 01.03.2025 for **various types of valves for YTPS. (3)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1394/Call-2, 01.03.2025 for **cation conductivity analyser for YTPS. (4)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1311/Call-4, 01.03.2025 for **spares for DP-MRHS. (5)** KPCL/2024-25/IND1521, 27.02.2025 for **high strength bleaching powder. (6)** KPCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT2474/Call-2, 27.02.2025 for **Supply, Testing, Retrofitting, Networking & Commissioning of 34 Nos. of 0.2s Class 3Ph, 4 wire Energy meters with ABT/SAMAST feature having Ethernet TCP/IP & DLMS protocol, time synchronizing with GPS along with Server Systems, Operating Stations and accessories to complete ABT/ SAMAST metering Management System for Unit 1 & 2, 11KV HT Switchgear System, 400 KV lines, station transformers at YTPS.**

Last date of receipt of tender: **for Sl. No. 1 & 6: 13.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. for Sl. No. 2, 3, 4 & 5: 17.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** The brief bid notification containing detailed specification, pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders, calendar of bid activities & other details can be accessed from Karnataka e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained from the office of the for Sl. No. 1 to 5: Executive Engineer (MSP), Mob: 9480682892, e-mail: **eemsprpcl@gmail.com,** for Sl. No. 6: Executive Engineer (E-1), Mobile: 9480682551, YTPS, RPCL, Yeramarus-584134, Raichur.

## ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ–2, (ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಪಿ),
ನಂ. 14/3, ಸಿ.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ಅರವಿಂದ ಭವನ,
1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001.

ಸಂ: ಕೆಐಎಡಿಬಿ/ಎಲ್ಎಕ್ಯೂ/2414/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.03.2025

### ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಲಿಂಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 518–27½ ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣದ ಜಮೀನನ್ನು ಕೆಐಎಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1966 ಕಲಂ 28(4)ರಂತೆ ಅಂತಿಮ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಐ 140 ಎಸ್ಐಕ್ಯೂ 2024 ದಿನಾಂಕ 01.10.2024 ರಾಜ್ಯಪತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕ 04.10.2024ರನ್ವಯ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಐಎಡಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಕಲಂ 29(2)ರನ್ವಯ ಪರಿಹಾರ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 12.03.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂದರ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

**ಲೋಟಸ್ ಅರೇನಾ,**
**ಎಲ್ ಅಂಡ್ ಟಿ ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಟರಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ – ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆ,**
**ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ– 561203**

ಆದುದರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 12.03.2025 ರಂದು** ನಡೆಯುವ ಭೂದರ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಮಾತ್ರ ಹಾಜರಾಗಲು ತಿಳಿಸಿದೆ.

**ಸಹಿ/–ವಿಶೇಷ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿ–2, ಕೆಐಎಡಿಬಿ(ಬಿಎಂಐಸಿಪಿ),**
**ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.**

## THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

**(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)**
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339, Fax: (08537)275048, 275054
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

**TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 27/24-25 Dt: 11.03.2025**

**(Through KPP Portal only)**

Tenders are invited by "The Senior Manager (Materials)" for the following Indents.

| Sl. No. | Description | EMD in Rs. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Design, Manufacturing, Testing, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 500 TR Self Cleaning , Chemical Free Electrolytic Scale Remover. **HGML/2024-25/PM/WORK_INDENT78/CALL-3.** | 45,000/- |
| 2 | Providing cosultancy service for preparation of DPR & estimation for re-powering of existing 0.6 MW WTG with higher capacity. **HGML/2024-25/SE0044.** | 42,500/- |
| 3 | Supply of Powerflex DC Drive. **HGML/2024-25/IND0271/CALL-2.** | 35,000/- |
| 4 | Supply of Vertical Slurry Sump Pumps along with motors and accessories. **HGML/2024-25/IND0297.** | 1,02,000/- |
| 5 | Job Work Contract For Replacement Of Wear Plates At Mallappa Shaft Ore Bin And Black Rock Bin. **HGML/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT84/CALL-3.** | 37,500/- |

**Calendar of events**: **(1)** Last date for receipt of Tender: **26-03-2025 at 4.00 PM. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **28-03-2025 at 10.00 AM.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.

**Sd/- Senior Manager (Materials)**

**"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"**

**GOVT OF INDIA**
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**
**EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEMES**
**STATION CELL (ECHS CELL) BENGALORE,**
TELE NO 080-25322873 email:echscellbangalore@gmail.com

### EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites application to engage following **Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff** on contractual basis in ECHS polyclinics located at **Whitefield Bangalore** for **a period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/till attaining the maximun age subjcet to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post.**

| Category | Minimum Qualification | Reservation for ESM | No of Vacancy | Fixed Remuneration | Reservation for ESM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Medical Officer | MBBS, Minimum 05 years after intership Perferable addl qualification in medicine/ surgery | 66 | 02 | 75,000/- | 60% |
| Dental Officer | BDS, Minimum 05 years work experience | 63 | 01 | 75,000/- | |
| Officer in Charge Polyclinic | Graduate, Minimum 05 years work experience in Health Care Institutions or Managerial positions | 63 | 01 | 75,000/- | 100% |
| Lad Assistant | DMLT/Class I Lab Tech Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years work experience in lab | 56 | 01 | 28,100/- | 70% |
| Lab Tech | Bsc (MLT)/DTLT, Minimum 03 years Experience as Lab Assistant in Medical Lab | 56 | 01 | 28,100/- | |
| Pharmacist | Minimum 03 years experience and (i) B Pharmacy from a recognized institute. or (i) 10+2 with Science stream (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) from a recognized board and (ii) Approved Diploma in Pharmacy from an Institute recognized by the Pharmacy council of India and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948. | 56 | 01 | 28,100/- | |
| Nursing Asst | GNM Diploma/Class I NAC (ESM) & Minimum 05 years experience | 56 | 01 | 28,100/- | |
| Dental Hygienist | Diploma in DH/Class I DH/DORA Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years experience in Dental Laboratory | 56 | 01 | 28,100/- | |
| Clerk/Data Entry Operator | Graduate/Class I Class-I Clerical trade (Armed Forces), Minimum 5 years experience | 53 | 01 | 22,500/- | |
| Driver | Class 8th/Class I MT Driver (Armed Forces) Posses of driving Licence, Minimum 05 years experience as driver | 53 | 01 | 19,700/- | |
| Chowkidar | Class 8th or GD Trade Armed Forces presonnel | 53 | 01 | 16,800/- | |
| Female Attendant | Literate, Minimum 05 years experience in Civil/Army Health instituation | 53 | 01 | 16,800/- | |
| Peon | Class 8th or GD Trade (Armed Forces) & Minimum 5 years service | 53 | 01 | 16,800/- | |
| Safaiwala | Literate, Minimum 05 years service | 53 | 01 | 16,800/- | |

**2. For Terms & Conditions, Application form & Remuneration:** Kindly contact with concerned ECHS Polyclinic for the same/ see website **www.echs.gov.in** For additonal details contact Station cell (ECHS Cell) Bangalore **Tele No 080-25322873 & email ID: echscellbangalore@gmail.com, Approach ECHS Polyclinic concerned for details if required.** Perference will be given to the Ex-servicemen. **Priority** will be accorded **to Veer Naris/Widows of ESM** within the ambit of Govt instructions.
**3. Last date for receipt of application as per format is 07 April 2025.** Application as per requisite format along with self-attested photocopies of testimonals in support of Educatinal Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore -560001 by **07 April 2025** (1400h) through register/speed post. **Any application received after 07 April 2025 (1400h) will not be accepted.**
**4. Interview Date, Timing & Venue,** Only **shortlisted Candidates will be called for Interview at** ECHS Cell, Statation Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore. Interviews will be **held 2nd week of April 2025** at Satation Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore **between 0900h to 1500h.** Candidates must **bring all the original certificate/ mark sheets/degree of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post Graduation/Diploma/Course , work experience, discharge book PPO,** sevice records and two PP size color photograph at the time of interview. No TA/DA claim is admissible.

## CHITRADURGA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, CHITRADURGA

**Telephone No:08194 222984**

CHINAPRA//TENDER/2024-2025 Date:07-03-2025

### RETENDER NOTIFICATION (2ND CALL)

In the jurisdiction of Chitrdurga Urban Development Authority retender (2nd call) has been called for 7 different development works. One work each for SC, ST and CAT-II(A) has been reserved. Eligible contractors can participate in the tender. Last date for submission date:21-03-2025, 5.30 PM. For further Information look into https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 677/2024-25 **Sd/- Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Chitradurga**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

## KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL

ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**KOL-S243–2012–13** ದಿನಾಂಕ:**15–03–2013**
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
**Website : www.kimskoppal.karnataka.gov.in email :directorkimskoppal@gmail.com**
**Office : 08539 225522** **Office : 08539-225523**

KIMS/KOPPAL/RE-TENDER/EQP-ABARK/2024-25 DATED: 07/03/2025

### RE-TENDER-NOTIFICATION

Re-Tender is invited from interested tenderer for supply of day care chemotherapy equipment's, PACs(Turnkey/package basis) and Implementation and avail consultation Service of AbArk Scheme at Teaching Hospital KIMS Koppal in a two cover Bid System through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Tender can download the tender document from Date: **14/03/2025** & Tender should upload on or before Date: **29/03/2025.@ 5.30PM** Approximate Cost of Tender: day care chemotherapy equipment's Rs.26.75 Lakhs, PACs- Rs.179.70 Lakhs & AbArk Service Rs.71.28 Lakhs and EMD as e-Portal The detailed tender schedule & other terms and conditions of tender can be viewed in tender document.

**NOTE:** If any Changes in tender it will not published in Newspaper same will be published in KPP Portal only

**Sd/- Dean cum Director,**
**Koppal Institute of Medical Science, Koppal.**

**DIPR/Koppal/838/DeshpandePublicity/2024-25**

## BENGALURU NORTH UNIVERSITY

Sri Devaraj Urs Extension, Tamaka, Kolar-563 103.
Website:**www.bnu.karnataka.gov.in**
Email:**bnuregistrar@karnataka.gov.in**

Date: 07.03.2025

### E-tender Notification

The Registrar, Bengaluru North University, Tamaka, Kolar invites Bids from the eligible and reputed firms for the various Tenders listed below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTPP) Act,the Tenderers who have registered under E-Governance, Department of Karnataka may participate through the kppp portal and download the tender document from the website **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **06.03.2025**

**(1)** Supply & Commissioning of 400KW Capacity Grid Connected roof top solar power plant at Banglore North university PG center- **Tender no: BNU/2024-25/IND0037.**

**Sd/-**
**REGISTRAR**
**Bengaluru North University**
**Tamaka, Kolar**

DIPR/Kolar/R.O.No:518/KSMCA/2024-25

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that K.Chandrashekhar S/o. Late V. Krishnareddy, Aged about 45 years, R/o. No.1680, Patel Layout, Opp. Madhura Garments, Begur, Bengaluru-560068, has lost original Registered sale deed dated: 23-04-2005 executed by V.T.Raju in favour of K.Srinivasareddy and M.Usha which was registered as document No.ANK-1-02139/2005-06 in Book-I stored in CD No.ANKD59 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal in respect of Site No.8, measureing East-West: 30 feet, North-South: 40 feet situated at 'Sri Gurukrupa Layout', Harapanahalli village, within the limits of Kallubalu Gramapanchayath, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. If any person/s come across the above said documents or if anybody is having possession of the said documents or if anybody has any claims over the above said property, kindly approach with documents to my office between 10A.M to 6P.M within 15 days from the date of this publication.

**Office Address:** M.C.Mahesh, B.com., LLB., Advocate, # 167, M.Rajanna Building, 1st main, 4th cross, opp.road to Adarsh palm meadows, Varthur main road, Ramagondanahalli, Bengaluru-560066, Mobile: 9880346433

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients propose to purchase the property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder from present owners **SRI. S. MURALI MOHAN REDDY,** aged about 43 years, **Son of Sri. S. Rami Reddy and SRI. SRIKANTH REDDY KONDA.** The owners represented that they have clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property. Any person /persons who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has/ have any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within Seven (7) days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and our clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities

**If** any person/s have any objections of any nature they may contact to the below mentioned phone number.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Sy No. 45/3, (old Sy No. 45/1, previously No. 45) measuring about 0-18 Guntas (Eighteen Guntas), situated at Sonnenahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District and the land is bounded on the:

**East by** : land bearing Sy No. 45/2 belongs to Abdul Aziz Qader,
**West by** : remaining portion of Same Sy No. 45,
**North by** : Land Bearing Sy No. 46 belongs to Thirumalappa,
**South by** : Land Bearing Sy No. 44 belongs to Chikkahanumappa,

Sd/-**Rangaswamy & Associates**
Advocates and Tax Consultants
Mob: 9880812716

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD- R.R. Nagagara, BBMP 9th Floor Shopping Complex, Jayanagara 4th Block, Bengaluru - 560 011.

**No: EE/SWD/TENDER/RRZ/02/2024-25** **Date: 10.03.2025**

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Two Cover System

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only) The Executive Engineer SWD, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

| Sl No. | Name of the works |
|---|---|
| 1. | Construction of Flood Protection Structures to SWD including RCC retaining walls, Water retention structures, Nature based solution structures / Bridges and Culverts under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) with externally funded project (World Bank) in Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone Package-1 Approx. Value of Work: ₹.18,027.19 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,00,000.00 through KPP portal and ₹.1,79,27,192/- through BG in favour of EE (SWD-R.R Nagara Zone) |
| 2. | Construction of Flood Protection Structures to SWD including RCC retaining walls, Water retention structures, Nature based solution structures / Bridges and Culverts under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) with externally funded project (World Bank) in Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone Package-2 Approx. Value of Work: ₹.18,532.29 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.1,00,000.00 through KPP portal and ₹.1,84,32,288/- through BG in favour of EE (SWD-R.R Nagara Zone) |

**Calendar of Events :** (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of GOK from **11.03.2025**. (2) Pre bid meeting is on **28.03.2025** at **4:00** pm. (3) Last date for Receipt of Tenders is on **15.04.2025** upto **5:30** pm. (4) Date of Opening of the Bid is on **16.04.2025** by **5:30** pm or next working day. (5) Date of Opening of the Financial bid will be intimated to technically qualified contractor successfull bidder in KPP Portal.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**Storm Water Drain, R.R.Nagara Zone**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is hereby notified that: 1. My client, **Dr. K. N. Satish,** aged about 72 years, son of K. N. Nagraj, residing at 45, 11th main, 13th cross, second floor, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560003, filed OS 73/2025 before the Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge and JFMC Srirangapattana on 28.2.2025, in respect of the properties morefully described in the schedule below (hereafter referred to as "schedule properties") against his younger brother **K. N. Balasubramanyam,** residing at 45, 11th main, 13th cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003. 2. The Hon'ble Principal Senior Civil Judge and JFMC Srirangapattana was pleased to issue an ex parte temporary injunction on 4.3.2025 restraining **K. N. Balasubramanyam,** his agents, representatives or any person claiming through or under him from alienating, encumbering or otherwise selling / disposing of any portion of the schedule property till the next date of hearing. 3. The general public is hereby notified not to deal with or enter into any transactions relating to the schedule properties. If despite this notice, any of the general public deals with or enters into any transactions in respect of the schedule property, you shall be doing so at your own risk.

**SCHEDULE**

**ITEM No.1:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1179/P9, measuring 1 Acres 04 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated 18.04.2006 and bounded by; **East :** Land belonging to Naganna, **West:** Land belonging to Smt. Kalamma, **North:** Land belonging to B.T. Ramegowda, **South:** Land belonging to Hombath.

**ITEM No.2:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1179/P5, measuring 25 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated 18.04.2006 and bounded by: **East :** Land belonging to Naganna, **West:** Land belonging to Smt. Kalamma, **North:** Land belonging to B.T. Ramegowda, **South:** Land belonging to Hombalaih.

**ITEM No.3:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1164/P2, measuring 2 Acres situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated 18.04.2006 and bounded by: **East :** Land belonging to B. Arjun. **West:** Land belonging to Mahadevu. **North:** Land belonging to Smt. Gowramma. **South:** Land belonging to Yelavegowda.

**ITEM No.4:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1175/A, measuring 2 Acres 39 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by;

**East :** Land belonging to Huchamma. **West:** Land belonging to Railway Road. **North:** Land belonging to B.T. Swamy. **South:** Land belonging to Ningegowda.

**ITEM No.5:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1179/P6, measuring 25 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by; **East:** Land belonging to Marikalaiah. **West:** Land belonging to Huchamma. **North:** Land belonging to Puttalingamma. **South:** Land belonging to Siddamma.

**ITEM No.6:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1171/P2, measuring 23 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by: **East:** Land belonging to Smt. Jamuna. **West:** Land belonging to Chikkavenkatappa. **North:** Land belonging to Smt. Jamuna. **South:** Land belonging to Smt. Jamuna.

**ITEM No.7:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1274, measuring 26 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by: **East:** Land belonging to Swamy. **West:** Land belonging to B.R. Sankaregowda. **North:** Land belonging to Smt. Madamma. **South:** Land belonging to Varunanala.

**ITEM No.8:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1172/P2, measuring 1 Acres 32 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by:

**East :** Land belonging to Smt. Jamuna. **West:** Land belonging to Bandidari. **North:** Land belonging to Smt. Jamuna. **South:** Land belonging to Venkatesha.

**ITEM No.9:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1175/B, measuring 2 Acres 39 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by:

**East:** Land belonging to Muddegowda. **West:** Land belonging to Marimadiah. **North:** Land belonging to Siddamma. **South:** Land belonging to Ningegowda.

**ITEM No.10:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 1179/P8, measuring 1 Acres 05 Guntas situated at Belagola Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 330/2005-06 dated. 18.04.2006 and bounded by:

**East:** Land belonging to Marikalaiah. **West:** Land belonging to Huchamma. **North:** Land belonging to Puttalingamma. **South:** Land belonging to Siddamma.

**ITEM No.11:-**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No. 8/P6, measuring 2 Acres 15 Guntas situated at Pura Village, Belagola Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluk converted for residential purposes by an order of the Deputy Commissioner in ALN 57/2006-07 dated. 05.05.2006 and bounded by: **East:** Land belonging to B. Arjun. **West:** Land belonging to B. Arjun. **North:** Land belonging to B. Arjun. **South:** Land belonging to B. Arjun.

Sd/- **Jayanth Venkatram, Advocate**
305, HM Geneva, Cunningham Road, Bangalore-560052,
Email: jayanth.venkatram@gmail.com

Place: Bangalore
Date : 10-03-2025

# BBMP's budget size may touch up to ₹20,000 cr.

In the previous budget, the outlay was ₹12,371 crore. However, upon approval by the State government, it was revised to ₹13,116 crore

**Shreyas H.S.**
BENGALURU

The date for the budget presentation has not been fixed. FILE PHOTO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) 2025-26 budget is expected to touch up to ₹20,000 crore, driven by enhanced State and Central grants and improved revenue collection, according to sources in the civic body's Finance Department.

In the previous budget presented by the BBMP Special Commissioner (Finance), the outlay was ₹12,371 crore. However, upon approval by the State government, it was revised to ₹13,116 crore. The upcoming budget could see a significant increase of 50% to 52%, sources said. The BBMP is yet to fix the date for the budget presentation.

A source familiar with the budget preparation told *The Hindu*: "Grants from the Central and the State governments have significantly increased, boosting the overall budget size. It may reach ₹0,000 crore. Additionally, as of March 1, the BBMP has collected ₹4,541 crore in revenue from property tax, achieving 87.17% of its target".

In the State Budget, the BBMP was allocated ₹7,000 crore, up from ₹3,000 crore. A major portion of these funds will go towards the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), with the Budget detailing the projects under this initiative. The BBMP is also set to receive a World Bank loan for its storm-water drain project.

However, according to another source, the State and the Union government funds alone will not suffice for key projects. A BBMP document estimates the total cost of these projects at ₹1 lakh crore.

For the two tunnel road projects, an estimated ₹40,000 crore is required, with the State government standing as the guarantor for ₹19,000 crore. The BBMP will need to secure the remaining funds through global bank loans.

The elevated corridor is estimated to cost ₹15,000 crore, while the BBMP's share of the double-decker project is also ₹15,000 crore.

Under the Sanchara Yuktha project, which involves road construction along buffer zones of storm-water drains, an estimated ₹3,000 crore will be required. The sky deck and white-topping projects are estimated at ₹1,000 crore and ₹6,000 crore, respectively.

# A transport hub that lacks integration, basic facilities, and suffers from safety concerns

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

The Majestic area – home to the Kempegowda Bus Station, Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna City railway station and Kempegowda Metro Station, all metres from one another – sees lakhs of passengers commute through it everyday. However, despite being a crucial transit hub, the lack of integration among different modes continues to cause significant inconvenience to commuters.

At the bus terminal, passengers are forced to navigate dangerous roads to switch between transport services, risking accidents. The stretch between the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus stands is particularly hazardous, with multiple accidents being reported over the years. Although subways connect the bus terminals with the railway station, poor maintenance discourages their use, forcing many to brave the traffic.

**Multi-transport hub:** The Majestic area is home to the Kempegowda Bus Station, Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna City railway station and Kempegowda metro station, all metres from one another. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The area's transformation from Dharmambudhi lake – once an important water source – to a bustling transport hub has come at a cost. Today, the station is plagued by unhygienic toilets, inadequate drinking water facilities, non availability of commuter friendly infrastructure, and poorly maintained roads. Commuters frequently struggle to find seating areas, while the ever-present traffic congestion adds to their woes.

Regular commuters express their frustration over the situation. Praveen Kumar, a software engineer who travels through Majestic daily, said, "Switching from a metro train to a bus is a nightmare. The crossings are unsafe, and the footpaths are in a bad shape. There is no proper way to move between stations without putting yourself at risk."

Safety is another major concern, especially for women. Many spoke about how they almost always feel unsafe waiting for buses or heading to the other modes of transport. "It feels unsafe even during the day. After dark, this feels like the most unsafe place, though almost all bus stops are the same - unlit. I am constantly trying to protect my belongings and myself whenever I am waiting for a bus here or moving between the metro and the bus stand," said Anjana, another commuter.

For over a decade, the KSRTC has proposed an integrated transport system to ensure seamless connectivity between buses, trains, and metro services. However, the plan has seen little progress beyond discussions. A notable attempt was made a few years ago to establish an inter-modal transit centre – a 45-storey complex costing ₹1,500 crore under the public-private partnership model. However, with only one company showing interest, the State government shelved the project. The redevelopment of the bus stand has again found mention in the 2025-26 Budget.

Transport expert M.N. Srihari highlighted the lack of coordination as a major impediment to improving connectivity. "The absence of a unified approach among KSRTC, BMTC, and BMRCL has left Majestic in a state of disarray. Authorities must collaborate and devise a comprehensive plan to ensure smooth transit between different modes of transport," he said. "If buses, metro, and trains were seamlessly connected, more people would shift to public transport. It's time the authorities prioritise this," Mr. Srihari added.

*As the Karnataka Budget for 2025-26 has announced plans for the redevelopment of the Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic, The Hindu, in a six part series, will explore the various facets of the pete area. This is the second story in the series*

# Cyber crooks pose as traffic police, try to steal data using Parivahan ID

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Cyber crooks posing as traffic policemen are sending messages to vehicle owners using the Parivahan ID with an .APK file to steal data.

The traffic police have urged people not to entertain such messages. They have clarified that neither the traffic police nor Transport Department officials call individuals to inform them of cases against their vehicles or demand payment of fines online.

"Several people are getting messages and many people who have followed the instructions now fear that their confidential data is being accessed unauthorisedly," said officials.

The officials are also probing on how the accused accessed to the contact number of the vehicle owners. The message informs the receivers that there is a ticket generated about a traffic violation which has been recorded on CCTV camera. It then says the details of the violations can be accessed by clicking on the link, which according to officials contain .APK malware which will access confidential data of the phone.

Last November, similar attempts were made to cheat vehicle owners as the accused posed as Bengaluru Traffic Police officials and claimed that a person's vehicle had multiple traffic violation cases. They would send malicious links or QR codes urging victims to pay the fines immediately to avoid legal trouble.

# KIA becomes India's first airport to introduce sensory room for neurodivergent passengers

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The sensory room allows passengers to feel more at ease before their journey. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

To promote inclusive air travel, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has introduced a first-of-its-kind sensory room at an airport in India. Located near the 080 International Lounge at Level 4 of Terminal 2, the sensory room is a space tailored for neurodivergent passengers and individuals with sensory sensitivities.

The airport operator, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), said that airports can be overwhelming with bright lights, continuous announcements, security screenings, and crowded spaces – factors that can be particularly challenging for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD), anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other sensory or mental health conditions. "To address these challenges, the Airport's sensory room offers a calm, controlled space, allowing passengers to feel more at ease before their journey," BIAL said.

"The airport has consistently aimed at offering the latest innovations, from our biophilic, sustainable Terminal 2 to digital solutions that enhance efficiency. The addition of the sensory room aligns with our mission to create a seamless and stress-free experience for every traveller, ensuring that inclusivity is not just a feature but a core value for us," Hari Marar, MD and CEO, BIAL said.

Backed by behavioural science and occupational therapy research, the sensory room at Terminal 2 is designed to provide a calming, engaging, and therapeutic environment for individuals with sensory sensitivities.

"Research in sensory regulation and occupational therapy indicate that even brief periods (15-30 minutes) in a calming, sensory-friendly environment can significantly alleviate feelings of being overwhelmed and enhance well-being, making travel smoother and more manageable. This benefit supports neurodivergent children and adults alike, allowing them to navigate their travel experiences with greater ease and comfort," BIAL said.

# 100th aircraft of Air India Express flagged off from KIA

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Air India Express inducted its 100th aircraft, a Boeing 737-8, which features 'Chittara' art, inspired by Karnataka's traditional mural painting, on its tail, on Monday.

The airline said that each aircraft in the Air India Express fleet is adorned with its unique 'Tales of India' tail art theme, and showcases the country's diverse artistic heritage.

The livery features indigenous textile motifs and traditional art forms, such as Ajrakh, Bandhani, Banarasi, Ikat, Jaapi, Jamdani, Kalamkari, Kanjeevaram, Kolam, and Warli.

The 100th aircraft features Chittara art from Karnataka, an intricate folk art historically practised by the Deewaru community, symbolising prosperity and celebration. Created using natural colours on mud-coated surfaces, Chittara reflects a deep connection to nature and heritage.

The aircraft was flagged off by Aloke Singh, managing director, Air India Express, at Kempegowda International Airport. This aircraft will operate on the Bengaluru-Hindon route.

"The induction of our 100th aircraft marks a defining moment in the growth and transformation journey of Air India Express. In just over three years since privatisation, we integrated and merged the LCC airlines, while scaling up rapidly with a modern and fuel-efficient fleet, broad basing our domestic network, deepening and expanding our Middle East and Southeast Asia routes. Today, we have a formidable presence in the India market focused towards Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the emerging hotspots of the economy, playing a pivotal role in the next stage of India's aviation growth story," Mr. Singh said.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

**I, BHAVANA,** D/o Rajesh Kumar, R/at No.30/31, Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Nilaya, Shop Street, N.R. Colony, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name from Bhavana to Bhavana Rajesh vide affidavit dated 10/03/2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

**I, FRANK** Rozario, S/o Anthony George, aged about 54 Yrs, R/a #138, 7th Cross, William's Town, Bangalore North, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046 have changed my name to Frank Rozario George vide affidavit dt: 07.03.2025 sworn before Notary N.Narayanaswamy, B'lore

**I, BHARATI** Rajesh Bellad, D/o Sri. Hanumanth.H.Naik, W/o Sri. Rajesh V Bellad, R/o SF3 Life Style Terrace Apt, 12th Main, near AIT College, Vinayaka Lyt, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stg, Bangalore North-560072 hereby state that I have changed my name from Bharati.H.Naik to Bharati Rajesh Bellad vide affidavit dt: 18.02.2025 sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, B'luru.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

**Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, in association with The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers Bengaluru Centre, celebrated International Women's Day at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.**

Chief Guest Ms. Manjula V. Kadetotad, Senior Program Manager, Synopsys, opined a woman needs to be able to deal with multiple challenges because she should strive not only to be a good woman at workplace but also to maintain the well-being of the house. Dr. C.V. Ravishankar, Chairman, The Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers Bangalore Centre presiding over the event said that the potential women should contact at least five poor girls to instil confidence in them. The event was attended by other dignitaries. The IETE honoured female teachers and girl students who have excelled in the activities of the organization.

**Women in Tech Conclave Inaugurated at Kristu Jayanti College**

"This is the day where we celebrate ourselves, and it's heartening to see men also join in the celebration," said Dr. Meenakshi D'Souza, President of ACM India and Professor & HOD of Computer Science at IIIT Bengaluru, as she inaugurated the Women in Tech Conclave at Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous. Addressing the gathering, she emphasized the indispensable role of women in leading India's technological advancement. Following the inaugural address, a panel discussion featuring distinguished women leaders from the tech industry took place. In his presidential address, Principal Fr. Dr. Augustine George lauded the increasing representation of women in leadership roles. The Women in Tech Conclave reinforced the commitment to empowering women in STEM, providing an opportunity for thought-provoking discussions on innovation, leadership, and the digital future of India.

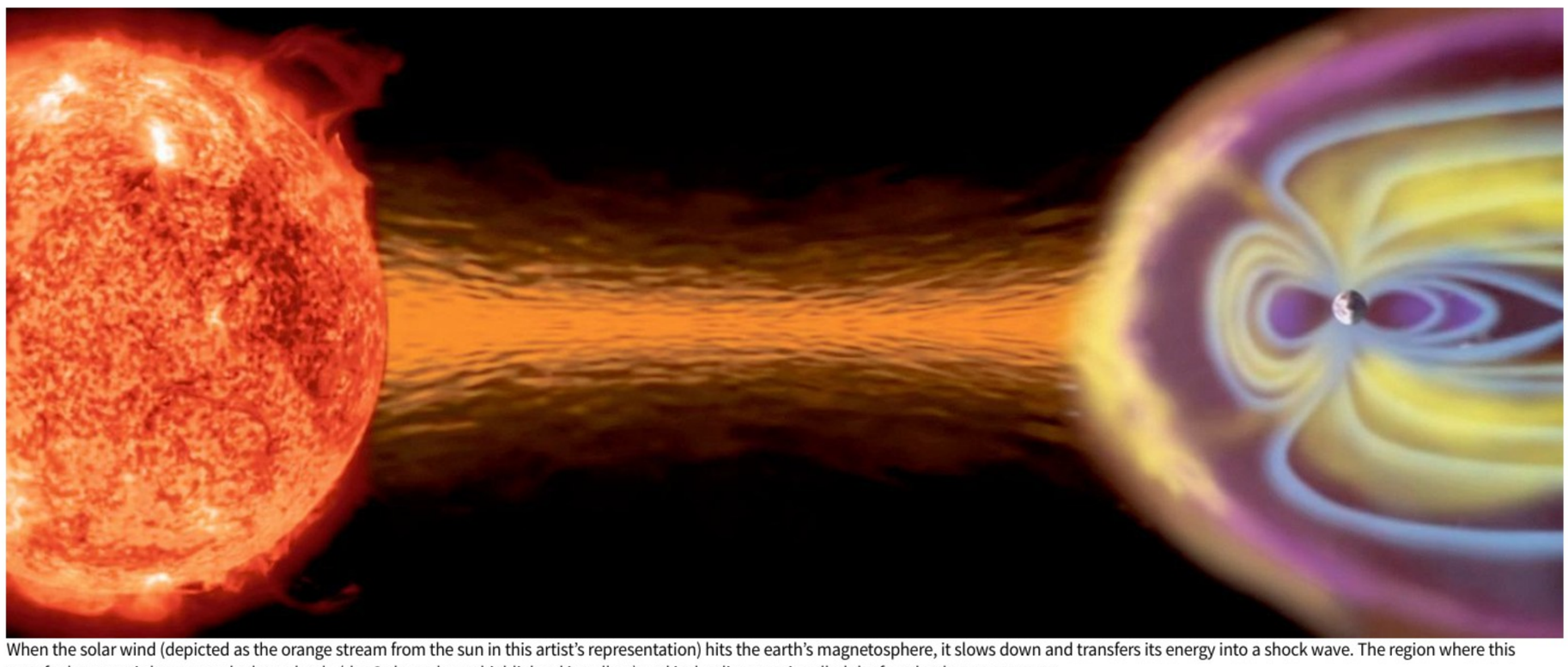
**A two-day event INICIO X organized by Christ University's UDAAN, the Department of Commerce's Entrepreneurship Cell**

Recently Christ University's UDAAN, the Department of Commerce's Entrepreneurship Cell, organized the decennial edition of INICIO X, its flagship event led by titans Dr Tomy K Kallarakal, Dean, Dr Karthigai Prakasam C, Associate Dean, and Dr Amalanathan S, HOD. UDAAN is headed and supervised by Yashodhan Dhume, Manya Bothra and Ullas N, who serve as the e-cell's core team for the current academic year. A two-day entrepreneurial extravaganza was graced by the choicest of guests and industry doyens. Since its commencement in 2014, it has managed, successfully, to impart essential skills, knowledge and expertise to its members, by virtue of its numerous

workshops, panel discussions, programmes and business events. On the first day, event began with an inauguration ceremony at the central campus' main auditorium. The programme was enriched by the presence of Mr Suresh Balakrishna, CRO of The Hindu Group and Independent Director of Jyothy Labs. Mr Suresh commented on the flourishing Indian startup ecosystem, encouraging budding entrepreneurs to make their mark. Later succeeded by an intriguing panel discussion featuring distinguished guests Ms Ritika Saraswat, founder and CEO of Re-Dened Canada, Mr Cassius Pereira, a Bengaluru-based content creator; and Ms Meera Iyer, founder and CEO of SkinQ. The speakers stressed shattering one's illusions and comfort zones, prioritizing authenticity and meaningful connections, and propelling purpose-driven innovation for lasting growth and erudition. The exhibition, running parallel to other enterprising fests, showcased innovative ventures by student collaborators while also receiving an enthusiastic response as sales surged. On the second day of the event, Dr Sawal Das Jethani, founder and CM of Chrysalis High and Chrysalis Kids, along with Mr Himanshu Jain, co-founder of CoRider, provided nuanced insights into their ventures and business philosophies. The two-day extravaganza successfully encapsulated the essence of entrepreneurial excellence, a prescient outlook, and an innovative spirit. It concluded with a spectacular valedictory ceremony, serving as a retrospective toast to UDAAN's decade-long, eclectic voyage.

**Karnataka State Police & Presidency University organise 5K Run**

In association with Presidency University,Bengaluru the Karnataka State Police- Bangalore Rural District organised a 5 kms marathon to promote awareness in the youth against drug abuse and cyber crime. It took place at 5 Commissionerate and 31 districts. At Presidency, celebrities like Dhruva Sarja, Sri Murali, Akul Balaji ,Manvita Kamath and Spoorthi Udimane inaugurated the 5 kms marathon and encouraged the students to stay fit and say no to drugs and cybercrime. C K Baba- SP, Bangalore Rural District, spoke about the menace of drugs and cyber-crime and how it is adversely affecting the youth of Karnataka. He applauded the vision of Dr. Nissar Ahmed-CM & Chancellor Presidency University, for partnering with the state police in making the marathon a huge success. Mr.Suhael Ahmed-Vice CM, Presidency Group of Institutions thanked the Karnataka State Police for organising the marathon at Presidency University Campus and assured them of full support in future too for any initiative taken for the welfare of the youth of Karnataka.



When the solar wind (depicted as the orange stream from the sun in this artist's representation) hits the earth's magnetosphere, it slows down and transfers its energy into a shock wave. The region where this transfer happens is known as the bow shock, (the C-shaped area highlighted in yellow) and its leading area is called the foreshock. NASA/YOUTUBE

# Looking for a potent cosmic particle accelerator? There's one near earth

Data from three space missions in 2017 revealed something strange. They found a transient but large-scale phenomenon upstream of the earth's bow shock, where the solar wind hits the planet's magnetic field. Electrons in the earth's foreshock seemed to acquire an enormous amount of energy

Qudsia Gani

Understanding how particles such as electrons travel vast distances in space or how they acquire ultra-high energy has been a long-standing puzzle in astrophysics.

In fact, physicists' picture of the manner of energy propagation in the universe is still not fully clear. On January 13, researchers with the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University in the U.S. and Northumbria University in the U.K. made an important finding that mitigates some of the fuzziness.

In their paper, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, the researchers reported that collisionless shock waves, which are easy to find throughout the universe, could be the cosmic engines driving subatomic particles in space to extreme speeds. The team found these shock waves to be among nature's most powerful particle accelerators.

## Scouting the plasma

These shock waves are born in plasma – a gas of charged particles that can conduct electricity and interact with magnetic fields.

The study was based on data from three of NASA's space-based data sources: the Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission, the Time-History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms (THEMIS) mission, and the Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence, and Electrodynamics of the Moon's Interaction with the Sun (ARTEMIS) mission.

Based on their analysis, the researchers have proposed a comprehensive new model that includes recent theoretical advancements in physics that they have said can explain the acceleration of electrons in collisionless shock environments.

When you shout at your friend across a field, say, the sound waves travel through the air between you two to reach your friend's ears. The travel happens at a speed equal to the speed of sound through the atmosphere. But sometimes, it's possible to transmit waves at faster than the speed of sound through the atmosphere – these are called shock waves.

In general, the density of a plasma is far lower than that of the three most common states of matter: solid, liquid, and gas. Another way of saying this is that the average distance between the constituent particles of plasma is much greater than in a dense solid, liquid, or gas.

But in plasma, the interparticle distance is even greater than the range of interparticle forces, which means any particle in the plasma rarely collides with another. Instead, the particles interact via the electromagnetic force.

This means a shock wave sent through the plasma will transfer its energy forward not by smashing the particles together but by riding the electromagnetic forces between them.

## The electron injection problem

Astronomers have found shock waves in outer space near pulsars and magnetars, in the hot disks of matter surrounding black holes, and other similar energetic objects. When a sufficiently massive star explodes into a supernova, it throws out a significant amount of energy. If the star is surrounded by a plasma, the shock front will essentially propagate in a collisionless manner.

The electrons within the plasma itself will be pushed forward at a speed that, depending on the circumstances, could be very close to the speed of light. Such electrons are said to be relativistic, since their properties can now be described only by the theories of relativity.

Such shock waves have previously been found to play a key role in producing cosmic rays: streams of high-energy particles travelling through the universe. When one such stream smashes into the earth's atmosphere, it breaks up into a shower of other particles.

In the new study, the researchers focused on diffusive shock acceleration, a well-known mechanism capable of accelerating electrons to tremendous energies through collisionless shock waves. But there's a catch: the

**Astronomers have found shock waves in outer space near pulsars and magnetars, in the hot disks of matter surrounding black holes, and other similar energetic objects**

mechanism requires electrons to have been accelerated to around 50% of the speed of light first before it can propel them even further.

Whether there's a natural process in the universe capable of providing this first bump – a.k.a. the electron injection problem – has been a long-standing mystery in astrophysics.

## Solar wind vs. magnetosphere

The researchers used real-time data from the MMS, THEMIS, and ARTEMIS missions about how the solar wind interacted with the earth's magnetosphere and about the upstream plasma environment near the moon. The solar wind is a river of charged particles constantly flowing out from the sun into the solar system.

"One of the most effective ways to deepen our understanding of the universe we live in is by using our near-earth plasma environment as a natural laboratory," Northumbria research fellow and study coauthor Ahmad Lalti said in a press release.

When the solar wind hits the magnetosphere, it slows down and transfers its energy into a shock wave. The region where this transfer happens is known as the bow shock, and its leading area is called the foreshock. The position of the bow shock depends on the speed of the solar wind and its density.

Data collected by the three missions on December 17, 2017, in particular, revealed something strange. The team found a transient but large-scale phenomenon upstream of the earth's bow shock. During this event, electrons in the earth's foreshock seemed to acquire more than 500 keV of energy. If this was entirely kinetic energy, the electrons would have been moving at around 86% of the speed of light.

This was a striking result given the fact that electrons in the foreshock region typically have just around 1 keV of energy.

According to the researchers, these high-energy electrons were generated by a complex interplay of multiple acceleration mechanisms, including the interactions with various plasma waves and with transient structures in the earth's bow shock and foreshock. They also excluded the influence of solar flares and coronal mass ejections from the sun at this time.

## A cosmic-ray contribution

"In this work, we use in-situ observations from MMS and THEMIS/ARTEMIS to show how different fundamental plasma processes at different scales work in concert to energise electrons from low energies up to high relativistic energies," Lalti said in the statement. "Those fundamental processes are not restricted to our solar system and are expected to occur across the universe."

Indeed, the team's refined acceleration model provides new insights into the workings of space plasma and other phenomena within our solar system.

For example, as the researchers wrote in their paper, scientists believe supernova shocks are responsible for creating cosmic rays – yet it's possible at least some of them might have been created by the process described in the paper.

In some star systems, they wrote, "Under the presence of [gas-giants orbiting very close to their stars], the existence of massive magnetic fields enables our mechanism to potentially sustain" electrons of a million to a billion keV of energy.

"Our results, therefore, imply that a portion of the cosmic ray distribution of relativistic electrons might originate from the interaction of planetary ... shocks with typical stellar winds."

They concluded by asking for more research by the "stellar astrophysics and particle acceleration communities" to verify their idea.

*(Qudsia Gani is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, Government Degree College Pattan, Baramulla. qudsiagani6@gmail.com)*

Intuitive Machines' Athena lander riding on the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, lifts off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, in Florida, on February 26, 2025. AFP

# *Private lunar lander is declared dead after landing sideways*

Associated Press

A private lunar lander is no longer working after landing sideways in a crater near the moon's south pole, and its mission is over, officials have said.

Launched last week, the lander named Athena missed its mark by more than 250 metres and ended up in a frigid crater, its maker and operator, Intuitive Machines, said, declaring it dead.

Athena managed to send back pictures confirming its position and activate a few experiments before going silent. NASA and other customers had packed the lander with $62 million worth of experiments, including an ice drill, a drone, and a pair of rovers to roam the unexplored terrain.

It's unlikely Athena's batteries can be recharged given the way the lander's solar panels are pointed and the extreme cold in the crater.

The bigger, four-wheeled rover never made it off the fallen lander, but data beamed back indicates it survived and could have driven away had everything gone well, said Lunar Outpost, the Colorado company that owns it.

This was the second landing attempt for Intuitive Machines. The first, a year ago, also ended with a sideways landing, but the company was able to keep it going for longer than this time. Despite all the problems, the company's first lander managed to put the US back on the moon for the first time in more than 50 years.

Earlier in the week, another Texas company scored a successful landing under NASA's commercial lunar delivery programme, intended to jumpstart business on the moon while preparing for astronauts' return. Firefly Aerospace put its Blue Ghost lander down in the far northern latitudes of the moon's near side.

**This was the second landing attempt by Intuitive Machines. The first, a year ago, also ended with a sideways landing, but the company was able to keep it going for longer than this time**

Firefly CEO Jason Kim reported Friday that eight of the 10 NASA experiments on Blue Ghost already have met their mission objectives. It's expected to operate for another week until lunar daytime ends and solar power is no longer available.

The south polar region of the moon is particularly difficult to reach and operate on given the harsh sun angles, limited communications with the earth, and the uncharted, rugged terrain. Athena's landing was the closest a spacecraft has come to the south pole, just 160 km away.

That's where NASA is targeting for its first landing by astronauts since the 1960s and 1970s Apollo program, no earlier than 2027. The craters are believed to hold tonnes of frozen water that could be used by future crews to drink and turn into rocket fuel.

Intuitive Machines has contracts with NASA for two more moon landing deliveries. The company said it will need to determine exactly what went wrong this time before launching the next mission.

In both landings by Intuitive Machines, problems arose at the last minute with the prime laser navigation system.

Intuitive Machines' rocket-propelled drone, Grace, was supposed to hop across the lunar surface before jumping into a crater to look for frozen water. The two rovers from two other companies, one American and one Japanese, were going to scout around the area as well.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

# A brief history of the Indus civilisation

Vasudevan Mukunth

**QUESTION 1**

Name the type site of the Indus civilisation. A type site in archaeology is a particular place or settlement that defines the culture and/or other characteristics identified with the civilisation.

**QUESTION 2**

_____ is considered to have been one of the major cities of the Indus civilisation. Located in the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan's Punjab, it is today threatened by land-use conversion in the surrounding areas. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 3**

Three officers of the Archaeological Survey of India — X, D.R. Bhandarkar, and M.S. Vats — are credited with discovering the importance of Mohenjo-daro to the Indus civilisation and its antiquity. X's input in particular prompted large-scale excavations at Mohenjo-daro. Name X.

**QUESTION 4**

The early years of the Indus civilisation overlapped with the late periods of a neolithic settlement centred on _____, today lying in Balochistan. A farming village here has been dated to 5000 BC to 3500 BC. Fill in the blank.

**QUESTION 5**

Name the bronze statue unearthed at Mohenjo-daro that revealed two facts about the civilisation: that its artists knew how to blend and cast metals and make statues, and that the civilisation's culture included dancing as an art form.

**Answers to March 6 quiz**:

1. Name of the plastic trash problem in the North Pacific – **Ans: Great Pacific Garbage Patch**
2. Pacific Ocean tides along North America's west coast – **Ans: Mixed semidiurnal tides**
3. Feature that's the largest known microcontinent – **Ans: Zealandia**
4. Belt of volcanoes encircling the Pacific Ocean – **Ans: Ring of Fire**
5. Name of continent created by closing the Pacific – **Ans: Amasia**

Visual: **Ferdinand Magellan**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Pratiksha Dey | Laxmi Shelke | Dinesh Kumar | Bhupender Singh

**Answers to March 7 quiz**:

1. Hormone responsible for regulating menstrual cycle – **Ans: Oestrogen**
2. B vitamin that helps prevent neural tube defects – **Ans: Folate (B9)**
3. Condition where body doesn't produce enough RBCs – **Ans: Anaemia**
4. Vitamin that plays crucial role in calcium absorption – **Ans: Vitamin D**
5. Whether progesterone levels are constant through menstrual cycle – **Ans: False**

Visual: **Rosalind Franklin**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Karthikeyan R. | Kittu Choudhary | Anmol Agrawal | Fathima Niloofar

A painted stand with wavy concentric circles, found at Harappa. It belongs to the Ravi phase of the Indus civilisation. File photo

**For feedback and suggestions** for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

SRM UNIVERSITY AP
Andhra Pradesh

Carnegie Mellon University
School of Computer Science

# SRM AP, AMARAVATI
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# SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, USA FOR
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Carnegie Mellon University, USA

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**CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY - SCS:** 5000 Forbes Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Indians repatriated from scam centres in Myanmar

**283** Authorities in Myanmar, under pressure from China, have cracked down in recent weeks on the scam compounds that have flourished in the country's lawless borderlands. The Indian government sent a transport plane to carry 266 men and 17 women back home. AFP

### The Ghodparas culled in Bihar last year due to crop damage

**4,279** Bihar's Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister disclosed the figure. "The drive to cull Ghodparas (nilgais) was launched in response to requests from various corners, as they caused damage to crops," he said. PTI

### Number of youth who registered on Jammu & Kashmir job portal

**3.7** in lakh. Replying to a written question of BJP MLA Sham Lal Sharma in the Assembly, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said that, "A total of 3,70,811 unemployed youth have been registered on the employment portal as of January 2025." This includes 66,628 graduates. PTI

### Net additional spending requested by the government

**51,463** in ₹ crore. The government sought Parliament nod to spend net additional ₹51,462.86 crore in the current financial year ending March. The additional expenditure includes ₹ 12,000 crore towards fertilizer subsidies. PTI

### Number of drones sent by Russia in an overnight attack

**176** The Ukrainian military said that Russia launched 176 drones during its overnight attack. The country's armed forces shot down 130 drones and another 42 did not reach their targets, the military said in a statement. REUTERS

COMPILED BY KUSHAL VARMA J.V.

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# Does T.N. offer engineering courses in Tamil?

When was the idea of offering engineering courses in Tamil first mooted? Does it still have patronage among students? What did a survey undertaken by the All India Council for Technical Education state? Is medical education also given in Tamil? What about other police recruitment exams?

EXPLAINER

D. Suresh Kumar

**The story so far:**

On March 7, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, while participating in the CISF Day at the newly named Rajaditya Chola Recruits Training Centre at Thakkolam in Ranipet district, said that several States were offering medical and engineering education using their regional language as the medium of instruction. He appealed to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to follow suit and offer medical and engineering courses in Tamil medium. "I have been asking for this for the last two years but to no avail. I hope today he will certainly do something," Mr. Shah said.

**Was Tamil offered as a medium of instruction in engineering?**

In 2010, the then M. Karunanidhi government had mooted the idea of offering engineering education with Tamil as the medium of instruction. On an experimental basis, it introduced Bachelors in Engineering, both Civil and Mechanical, in the Tamil medium at constituent colleges of Anna University during the academic year 2010-11. The government also decided to set the undergraduate engineering examination question papers in both English and Tamil, giving students the option of answering in either language.

When the single window counselling for Tamil Nadu Engineering Admissions was being conducted in July 2010, Karunanidhi made a rare visit to Anna University and said, "...the Tamil medium education, which we talked about at the World Classical Tamil Conference, has also been popular with 149 students taking it up till now. I believe and hope that this number will increase." In September 2010, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government promulgated an ordinance reserving 20% of State government jobs for students who studied in the Tamil medium (all courses).

**Language woes:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Ranipet district on March 7. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

**What is the status now?**

Initially, the courses received good patronage with some students opting for the Tamil course even though they had completed their schooling in the English medium, as they got an opportunity to study in the prestigious College of Engineering, Guindy. Thus, the Tamil medium of instruction was expanded to more constituent colleges of Anna University. However, over the years, the number of students opting for the Tamil medium course has declined. In May 2023, the Anna University issued a circular to suspend the Tamil medium courses offered in 11 of its constituent colleges with effect from 2023-24. It triggered a controversy, following which the university reversed its decision on the advice of the Higher Education Minister.

The then Vice Chancellor R. Velraj had said it was initially decided to withdraw the civil and mechanical engineering courses due to poor patronage, and instead introduce Tamil medium courses in computer science and engineering, which were more in demand.

The university, he said, had in the previous year, translated [into Tamil] study material for 50 subjects. The translation of another 500 subjects was underway. Incidentally, in 2021, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) said an online survey, which drew responses from 85,195 undergraduate students countrywide, revealed that 12,487 students preferred to study engineering in the Tamil medium if given an option.

**What about medical education?**

Tamil Nadu had toyed with the concept of offering medical education in the Tamil medium in 2010. "The minister had announced engineering courses would be taught in Tamil from this year. Next, it would be introduced in medical colleges," Karunanidhi had said in June of that year. However, the idea did not take shape after the DMK lost the elections in 2011. In October 2022, State Health Minister Ma. Subramanian said the government was taking steps to introduce Tamil as a medium in medical colleges. "Once the Union government gives the nod to open medical colleges in six districts that do not have one, efforts will be made to start a medical college in Chennai with Tamil as medium of instruction," he had said.

In December 2022, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, participating in the convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, batted for teaching medical and allied health courses, including nursing, in the Tamil medium. Last year, the university's Vice Chancellor K. Narayanaswamy said affiliated medical colleges will offer education in Tamil and English and that the State will offer Tamil textbooks to students, if required.

**What about other exams?**

In April 2023, Mr. Stalin strongly opposed the decision of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to conduct its recruitment examination for constables only in Hindi and English. He wrote to Mr. Shah urging him to conduct the recruitment in Tamil and other regional languages. The CRPF responded saying it has "never conducted written examination for any in-house recruitment in regional languages." It said computer-based test for recruitment of constables is conducted in "Hindi and English only." However, for the first time the Ministry of Home Affairs decided to conduct constable examinations for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), such as CRPF, BSF and CISF, in 13 regional languages, in addition to Hindi and English, from January 1, 2024.

### THE GIST

- In 2010, the then M. Karunanidhi government had mooted the idea of offering engineering education with Tamil as the medium of instruction.
- In December 2022, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, participating in the convocation of the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, batted for teaching medical and allied health courses, including nursing, in the Tamil medium.
- In April 2023, Mr. Stalin strongly opposed the decision of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to conduct its recruitment examination for constables only in Hindi and English.

# What is behind the rise of quick commerce?

What are dark stores and how do they facilitate Q-commerce? How does customer data help elevate the shopping experience on these digital platforms?

Saptaparno Ghosh

**The story so far:**

Quick commerce's initial utility was presented to under-lockdown customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the youngest avenue of digital shopping, having outlived its initial utility, stayed on to alter how people shop – particularly in urban India.

**How does quick commerce function?**

As a subclass of e-commerce, quick commerce (Q-commerce) entails rapid delivery, typically in 10 to 20 minutes, of products to the customer's doorstep. This is facilitated by an elaborate network of dark stores and/or distribution centres. Dark stores refer to warehouses used by the platforms solely to fulfil online orders, with no in-person shopping. The idea is to be in close proximity to the consumer to facilitate faster deliveries.

Additionally, unlike a traditional retail store or modern retail (super or hyper markets), quick commerce based around a mobile app benefits from customer data to create a feedback loop. This helps them provide a customised shopping experience in addition to planning their inventory and responding better to the demand of a product (and categories). An example could be estimating when to stock up a certain product that has a seasonal demand or an abrupt demographic influence, among others.

**What's in it for brands?**

According to a paper by the Centre for Transportation and Logistics of IIM Ahmedabad, quick commerce is beneficial to retailers owing to the prospect of enhanced brand awareness among consumers citing their proliferation. Angshuman Bhattacharya, Partner and National Leader for Consumer Product and Retail Sector at EY-Parthenon, observed that the availability of low-cost employable manpower, of a certain age and economic profile, has been among the crucial factors for the uptick and efficiency of quick commerce in India. The other aspect is about abundant choice. Scale also enables supply side advantages to quick commerce platforms. "If an individual company has to distribute a frozen or chilled product, they could be required to place a freezer in a Kirana store which is very expensive," he noted.

According to Grant Thorton Bharat, the Indian quick commerce market is presently valued at $3.34 billion and is expected to reach $9.95 billion by 2029. The industry grew 76% YoY in FY 2024.

**What about traditional retailers?**

Non-government organisations, representing FMCG stockists and distributors across India, and the All-India Consumer Products Distribution Federation (AICPDF) in their recent complaint to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) accused the quick commerce trio (Blinkit, Zepto and Swiggy Instamart) of anti-competitive practices. Predatory pricing and deep discounting were among the major concerns highlighted by the distributors' forum. According to them, the platforms "unfairly" set prices of products below landing costs to deliberately eliminate competitors from the market. Once the objective is attained, platforms increase prices to recoup the loss. The AICPDF also pointed to the platforms having "deep pockets" because of the inflow from venture capitalists and/or foreign direct investment. The complainants have also accused that platform of using data (from app activity) to facilitate differential pricing. This could be based on the customers' location, device type and/or specific purchasing behaviour. The federation highlighted that with traditional retailers unable to compete, "millions of retail shops and distributors" are being wiped out of business or experiencing losses.

P.M. Ganeshraam, Founder and President of the Tamil Nadu Consumer Products Distributors Association told *The Hindu* that there must be a "level playing field" where both can co-exist.

### THE GIST

- Quick commerce (Q-commerce) entails rapid delivery, typically in 10 to 20 minutes, of products to the customer's doorstep. This is facilitated by an elaborate network of dark stores and/or distribution centres.
- According to Grant Thorton Bharat, the Indian quick commerce market is presently valued at $3.34 billion and is expected to reach $9.95 billion by 2029.
- The All-India Consumer Products Distribution Federation (AICPDF) in their recent complaint to the Competition Commission of India (CCI) accused the quick commerce trio (Blinkit, Zepto and Swiggy Instamart) of anti-competitive practices.

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC), CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058.

### BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER

1. On behalf of President of India, sealed **item rate E-Tenders** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-28094541, 28094178)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Name of Work | **Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Package A.C. Units, Precession Package, A.C.Units, Duct able A.C.Units. Installed at SCC, MOX, Peenya, ISTRAC, Bengaluru** | **Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Package A.C. & Precision Package A.C. Units Installed at IDSN, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru** |
| 2 | E-tenders Notice | **ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/A.C/E-Tender-77/ 2024-2025 Dated: 06.03.2025** | **ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/A.C/E-Tender-78/ 2024-2025 Dated:06.03.2025** |
| 3 | Estimated cost put to tender | **Rs. 20.25 Lakhs** | **Rs. 15.40 Lakhs** |
| 4 | Tender Document details | **E-Tenders** | **E-Tenders** |
| 5 | Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order | **24 (Twenty Four) months with a provision to extend the contract further for a period of one year with same terms and conditions.** | |
| 6 | Period during which the tender document can be downloaded | **From 11.03.2025 to 24.03.2025 till 16.00 hrs.** | |
| 7 | Bid clarification | **From 12.03.2025 to 25.03.2025 till 16.00 hrs.** | |
| 8 | Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification | **26.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs** | |
| 9 | Last date & time of receipt of tenders | **27.03.2025 up to 16.00 hrs** | |
| 10 | Due date and time of opening of tenders | **28.03.2025 after 11.00 hrs** | |
| 11 | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) | **Rs. 40,500.00** | **Rs. 30,800.00** |

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website:**www.isro.gov.in.** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ ISRO.**

**Sd/- Group Head,CMG**

## BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

### INVITATION FOR TENDER-2nd Call

**(Only through KPP portal)**

BWSSB invites TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.

**Office of the Chief Engineer (Waste Water Management - East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Works | Amount put to Tender EMD Amount |
|---|---|---|
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1331/2024-25** | | **Date: 10.03.2025** |
| 1 | Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia and 100mm dia DI K-9 Pipeline to fill the Eco-friendly treated water to Somasundarapalya Lake and Garebhavipalya Lake tapping from 300mm dia pipeline at near 35 MLD Agara STP coming under the Jurisdiction of EE(WWM-STP-K&T) Valley Division. | **Rs.244.45 Lakh** / **Rs. 3.666 Lakh** |
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1329/2024-25** | | **Date: 10.03.2025** |
| 2 | Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia and 100mm dia DI K-9 Pipeline to fill the Eco-friendly treated water to Chikka Bellandur Lake tapping from 300mm dia pipeline at near Gunjur Palya Lake from 90 MLD Bellandur STP coming under the Jurisdiction of EE(WWM-STP-K&T) Valley Division. | **Rs. 200.98 Lakh** / **Rs. 3.01 Lakh** |
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1327/2024-25** | | **Date: 10.03.2025** |
| 3 | Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia and 100mm dia DI K-9 Pipeline to fill the Eco-friendly treated water to Gunjur Carmelaram Lake tapping from 200mm dia pipeline at near Chikka Bellandur Lake from 90 MLD Bellandur STP coming under the Jurisdiction of EE(WWM-STP-K&T) Valley Division. | **Rs. 150.12 Lakh** / **Rs. 2.251 Lakh** |
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1336/2024-25** | | **Date: 10.03.2025** |
| 4 | Work of providing and laying of 300mm, 200mm and 100mm dia DI K-9 Pipeline to fill the Eco-friendly treated water to Mangammanapalya Lake (ITI Layout Lake) from 35 MLD Agara STP coming under the Jurisdiction of EE(WWM-STP-K&T) Valley Division. | **Rs. 311.88 Lakh** / **Rs. 4.677 Lakh** |
| **IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(WWM-E)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-1/1333/2024-25** | | **Date: 10.03.2025** |
| 5 | Work of Providing and laying DI 300mm dia, 200mm dia and 100mm dia DI K-9 Pipeline to fill the Eco-friendly Treated Water to Gunjur Palya Lake from 90 MLD Bellandur STP coming under the jurisdiction of EE(WWM-STP-K&T) Valley division. | **Rs. 340.18 Lakh** / **Rs. 5.102 Lakh** |

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **20.03.2025 upto 16:30 hrs.** The bids opening is on **21.03.2025 at 17:00 hrs.**

**Sd/-**
**Chief Engineer (WWM-East)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/YC/5574/2024-25

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-Tender Notice No. 62/2024 Dated: 05-03-2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

| Sl | Tender No. | Description in Brief | Tender Due on |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L8246751B | Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Pallet Racking System consist of Heavy duty Shelving System and selective pallet racking a per Schedule-I and Schedule- II. **Qty- 01 Set.** | **31-03-2025 10:30 Hrs.** |
| 2 | L8255023A | Design, Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Prove out of the machine, Electric driven, rotary screw, air-cooled, microprocessor based stationary air compressor of 300 CFM, 10.0-10.5 Kg/cm2. **Qty- 03 Nos.** | **01-04-2025 10:30 Hrs.** |

**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**

PUB/834/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

**Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD-West Zone, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011.**

**No: EE/SWD/West/TEND/05/2024-25 Date: 10-03-2025**

### INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

**(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)**

The Executive Engineer, SWD - West Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed below.

**(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of Flood Protection Structures to Storm Water Drain including RCC Retaining Walls, Water Retention Structures, Nature Based Solutions Structures / Bridges and Culverts Under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) with Externally Funded Project (World Bank) in West Zone. **(Package-1) - (15 Works) - Approximated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs): 3450.00 (Excluding GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,00,000.00 through KPP Portal and Rs. 33,50,000.00 through BG in Favour of EE (SWD-West Zone)** |

**Calendar of Events: 1)** Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11-03-2025. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **28-03-2025 at 16.00 Hours in Office of the Chief Engineer, Storm Water Drain, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru - 560011. 3)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is **15-04-2025 upto 17.30 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **16-04-2025 at 17.30 Hours or next working day. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated to Technically Qualified Contractor Successful Bidder in Kpp Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**Storm Water Drain - West Zone, BBMP.**

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

**E-Tender Notice No: 241 -24-25, Date: 10.03.2025**. Divisional Railway, Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works **up to 14.00 hours on 29.03.2025** as below:- Tender No.: 241. **Name of Work with its Location**: Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators on curves 203 Nos over Bikaner division under control of ADEN/Ratangarh. **Approx. Cost of Work**: ₹ 153228466.09. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 916200/-. **Note**: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

**301-AR/25**

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Sree Devi Ramesh W/o Ramesh Kumar Jayaraj** to bring the notice of the general public that, her name is calling as **Sree Devi Ramesh,** its reflecting **in her** Aadhaar Card but her another document Passport bearing No.K2624247 wrongly reflecting in the Colum of surname as **Ramesh Kumar Instead of Ramesh,** therefore her name **Sree Devi Ramesh is correct not Sree Devi Ramesh Kumar.**

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned name, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

**H. Prahlada,** Advocate & Solicitor,
**For H.P.Law,** #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No: 03-S&T/MYS/2025 - 01, 02 & 03 Dated: 03.03.2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

| Sl.No. | Item of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Provision of Annual Repair contract of M/s. Deltron make UFSB System over Mysuru division for three years. | Rs. 39,78,715.00 |
| 2 | Annual Repair Contract (ARC) of Single section digital axle counter cards and High availability single section digital axle counter cards (HASSDAC) of G.G. Tronics make for three years over Mysuru division. | Rs. 34,28,749.50 |
| 3 | Provision of Annual Repair Contract [ARC] of M/s Ravell make Fire Alarm systems over Mysuru division for THREE years. | Rs. 49,51,630.00 |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 25.03.2025**

**For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in**

**Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Mysuru**

PUB/828/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mrs.THASEEN W/o.Late.Noorulla Shariff** No.14, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043, is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **MR.NAFEES MOHAMMED KHAN S/o.Late.Ilyas Mohammed Khan;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All the piece and parcel of the **Site No.303,** Khatha No.969, Sl.No.921, Property No.969/12/6/303, formed in Converted Survey No. 12/6, vide conversion order No. BDS.ALN.SR(S)318/1992-93, dated: 10.08.1994, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at **Thanisandra Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** East to West **41feet,** North to South **30 feet,** in all measuring **1230 Square Feet** and bounded on; **East by Site No.302, West by Road, North by Private Property, South by Site No.304**

**C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES**
**Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN** M.A., L.L.B.
**Advocates & Legal Consultants** Bangalore-43
**M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774**
**E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com**

## SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No: 02-MYS-2025 Dated: 28.02.2025**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

| Name of work | Approx. Value |
|---|---|
| Passenger Lift 20 person's capacity. **(Tender No.: L9255054)** | **Rs. 6,58,92,420.00** |

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 24.03.2025**

**For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in**

**Senior Divisional Materials Manager/ Mysuru**

PUB/827/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Mr.Binod Kumar Sahu** and **Mrs. Sumitra Sahu** parents of **Master Ashutosh Sahu,** now at Chennai. My client is in need of Birth Certificate of their adopted child **Ashutosh Sahu,** aged about 13 years in which Mr.Binod Kumar Sahu and Mrs. Sumitra Sahu names are to be mentioned as Parents as per the **deed of adoption dated 01-02-2014.** Adopted child **Ashutosh Sahu born on 01.02.2012** at the address of the Natural Parents at Gurushree High Tech Multi Speciality Hospital, Chandra Layout, Bangalore. Hence, my clients approached the Hon'ble Court of Principal City Civil and Sessions Judge in order to obtain Birth Certificate duly mentioning Mr.Binod Kumar Sahu and Mrs. Sumitra Sahu names as Parents and the same was declared by the **Hon'ble Court dated 21-01-25.**

Thereof if any objections **within 7 days** of publication of the said Notice, failing which claims in any shall be deemed to have been waived.

**Date:11.03.2025 Place: Bangalore**
**Sd/- A.S Naveen,** advocate
ASN Associates,6th main Road, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560080.
**Mobile No. 96110 75338**

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## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

**E-Tender Notice No: 236 to 240-24-25, Date: 07.03.2025**. Divisional Railway Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works **up to 15.00 hours on 01.04.2025** as below:- **Sr. No.: 1. Tender No.: 236. Name of Work with its Location**: Water proofing treatment of 05 no. RUBs (5B, 9B. 11A1, 17A & 37A) in Rewari-Hisar section and provision of covering shed on 02 no. RUBs (24 A & 24B) on Rewari-Sadulpur section. **Approx. Cost of Work**: ₹ 66813240.52. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 484100/-. **Sr. No.: 2. Tender No.: 237. Name of Work with its Location**: Major improvement 2 no's underground water tanks and surrounding areas and new water treatment plant of capacity 20000 liters per hours capacity at BNW station under ADEN/BNW. **Approx. Cost of Work**: ₹ 16270103.11. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 231400/-. **Sr. No.: 3. Tender No.: 238. Name of Work with its Location**: Reconditioning of CMS crossing and Tongue rails of loop lines on Hisar - Sadulpur, Hanumangarh - Sadulpur, Rewari - Sadulpur and Ratangarh - Bikaner sections under control of ADEN/Sadulpur (For 02 years). **Approx. Cost of Work**: ₹ 2440796.94. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 48800/-. **Sr. No.: 4. Tender No.: 239. Name of Work with its Location**: Reconditioning of CMS crossing of main line using Robotic Welding Machine on Hisar - Sadulpur, Hanumangarh - Sadulpur, Rewari - Sadulpur and Ratangarh - Bikaner, sections under control of ADEN/ Sadulpur (For 02 years). **Approx. Cost of Work**: ₹ 2336380.26. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 46700/-. **Sr. No.: 5. Tender No.: 240. Name of Work with its Location**: Supply of Drinking Water on Stations, Section, in Gangs & Level Crossings over NPS (Ex.)- NTZ (Ex.) section under ADEN/Line, Bikaner (For-12 Months). **Approx. Cost of Work**: ₹ 1001536.64. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 20000/-. **Note**: Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

**298-AR/25**

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## केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

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**BENGALURU**

### E-AUCTION NOTICE

**SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

| Sl. No. | 1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor | 1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount | 1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor | 1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. Mr. Atiq Ahmed (Borrower) S/o Rafeeq Ahmed** No. 7/1, 1st Main, 1st Cross, New Gurappana Palya, Bangalore South- 560029. **2. Ms. Bharathi R (Guarantor) D/o Ramaraju N** 175 Vijay Classic, 3rd Cross, Bhoopasandra Central, Excise Layout, Bengaluru – 560094. **2) Canara Bank - Hombegowdanagar Branch Mob. No. 8521113832** | **1) Rs. 50,33,940.49** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets: MODTD OF SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY :** All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing E-Khata No. 150200103000520052 PID No. 39/68/3/139/5/7, previously Sy No. 68/3, New Sy No. 139/5, measuring 1 Acre situated at Goolimangala Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District 4046.86 sq.mtrs. (1 acre) and bounded on the: **East:** Private Property, **West:** Private Property, **North:** Private Property 139/4, **South:** Road **SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY :** Residential Flat No. B 009 'B' Block in the Ground Floor of the apartment building constructed and named as 'NA Central Heights' bearing E-Khata No. 150200103000520099, of the respective flat, measuring super built-up area of about 910 sqft consisting of 2BHK, with proportionate undivided right in the common area and 1 covered car parking area in the basement area of the share 328.00 sqft of undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property. The apartment having vitrified tile flooring, wooden doors. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 47,93,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 4,79,000.00** | | | |
| 2 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. M/s Innosoft Data Links Pvt Ltd.,** No. 817-819, B Wing, 8th Floor, Mittal Towers Mg Road,Bangalore- 560001 **2. Mr. Balamurugan G,** No. 2, Murugan Nilayam, Lingaiyyana Oalya Indiragandhi Street, Ulsoor, Bangalore- 560005 **3. Mrs. Sivapriya Thiagarajan,** No. E 005, Ground Floor, Adithi Pearl Apartments, Kalkere 60 Ft Road, NRI Layout, Bangalore 560043. **2) Canara Bank - Trinity Circle Branch Mob. No. 8838666873** | **1) Rs. 1,20,62,564.61** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets :** All that piece and parcel of residential building and premises constructed on site no. 1 measuring East to West on the northern side 35ft, on the southern side 30ft, North to South 75ft formed out of alienated Survey number 2 bearing City Municipal Khata no. 1694, assessment no. 1733 situated at Nachepalli (Kaluve area) Robertsonpet City Municipal Council Limit, KGF, Bangarpet taluk and bounded on the **North by:** 20 ft Road, **South by:** Drain, **East by:** House belonging to JA Stephens, **West by:** 30 ft Road. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 39,00,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 3,90,000.00** | | | |
| 3 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. Sri Shanmughan E Sundaram (Borrower)** No: 511, 7th Cross, 7th Main K N Extension, Gokula 1st Stage Yeshwantpur, Bangalore – 560 022. **2. Sri Krishna Jodidar (Guarantor) S/o Venkanna Jodidar** No.9, Water Tank Road, Yadalam Nagar, Subramanyapura, Bangalore – 560 061. **2) Canara Bank - Hombegowdanagar Branch Mob. No. 8521113832** | **1) Rs. 22,51,682.00** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 20,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets: Schedule –A :** All that piece and parcel of the properties bearing (1) Sy. No. 5/3, measuring 2 acres 27 guntas of land (2) Sy. No. 46, easuring 2 acres of Land (3) Sy. No. 47, measuring 2 acres of land and (4) Sy. No.48, measuring 2 Acres of land, totally measuring 8 acres 27 guntas excluding Kharab, situated at Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, converted for non agricultural residential purpose through the conversion order bearing No. BDS/ALN/SR (A) 66/2001-02, DATED 26/02/2003 AND BOUNDED ON: **East by :** Property bearing Sy. No. 46 & 5/4, **West by:** Property bearing Sy. No. 49 & 5/1, **North by:** Property bearing Sy. Nos. 5/2, 5/4 & 5/5,**South by :** Property bearing Sy. No. 45. **Schedule – B :** All that Residential Apartment bearing No. IG 252 in Ground Floor in Block 'I' of "ITTINA NEELA" built in Schedula 'A' property and measuring 660 Sq. ft of super built up area inclusive of proportionate share in common areas, passages, lobbies, staircase and other areas together with 198 Sq.ft. undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land comprised in the Schedule 'A' Property, and in the said apartment the doors are made of flush doors and steel windows and mosaic flooring. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 14,85,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,49,000.00** | | | |
| 4 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. M/s Ak Enterprises,** No. 920, 2nd Cross, Md Block Malleshwaram, Bengaluru- 560003. **2. Sri Rahamathulla Khan, 3. Mrs Sayeda Saba Kouser Both are at :** No. 23/3, M D Block, 3rd Cross Lane, Malleshwaram,Bengaluru- 560003. **2) Canara Bank - N R ROAD Branch Mob. No. 8521113832** | **1) Rs. 8,93,825.74** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 20,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets:** All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing number 23/4, situated at 3rd cross road, Mahammedam Block, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, BBMP Ward No. 6, PID No. 6-31-23/4, (Formerly North-Western portion of property bearing No. 23, old no 49 & 50, later No. 690/A-56) and bounded on:- Measuring East to West: 20 feet and North to South: 13 feet 8 inches along with 3 feet common passage and bounded as follows: **East by:** 3 feet common passage, **West by:** Property bearing No. 23/3, **North by:** Zamrudunnisa and Late Syed Meer's property, **South by:** Vendor's Property. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 19,73,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,97,000.00** | | | |
| 5 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. M/S Citrance Foods and Hospitality LLP Registered Office:** NO 8, 11th Main, 3rd block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru – 560011. **Represented by its Partners Smt Roopa Amit Shekar and Smt Sheela Shekar Devi 2. Smt. Roopa Amit Shekhar, W/O Shri.Amith Shekar 3. Smt. Sheela Shekar Devi, W/O Shri. C. Ravikumar Gunashekar Both are at :** No 34, 1st Cross, C S I Compound, Mission Road, Bengaluru – 560027. **2) Canara Bank - Lavelle Road Branch Mob no 9483520887, Ph. No. 080 22241457/22215760** | **1) Rs. 1,68,38,376.49** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 2,00,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets:** Residential property bearing BBMP No 34 (Portion of earlier Site Revenue Officer's No.30, thereafter No. 23), situated at 1st Cross, CSI Compound (Previously called as Methodist Mission Compound " Chislehurst"), Bangalore, in all measuring 550 Square feet, with building constructed thereon, consisting of Ground Floor of the upstair building at the rear of the new twin building with all civic amenities within administrative jurisdiction of Ward No. 48 Sudhamanagar, BBMP, Bangalore and assigned PID No. 48-88-34 Bounded on **East By:** New Twin House, **West By:** Late Kantha Rajs Property, **North By:** Devadas's Manor and **South By:** Proposed road facing the Park. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 91,80,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 9,20,000.00** | | | |
| 6 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. Sri. Sriramaiah S/o Shivappa GUARANTOR (S) / MORTGAGOR (S) /LEGAL HEIR (S) 1. Smt. Kalavathi W/o Sriramaiah 2. Sri. Umakanth K S. S/o Sriramaiah 3. Sri. Punith Kumar K S/o Sriramaiah All are at :** #54, Muthyalapete,, Siddeshwara Nilaya Mulbagilu Town, Kolar District 563131. **2) Canara Bank - Hitech Agricultural Finance Branch Mob no 9442114042, Ph. No. 080- 22223659** | **1) Rs. 26,07,938.96** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets:** All that piece and parcel of residential property of area 65*55 with three storied building of area 1800 Sq.Ft situated at Town Municipal Council Mulbagal 'A' division New A.D.Palya old Municipal No.2675:F, New No.5074/52 88/17 located at Mulbagal town, Mulabagal taluk, Kolar district. **East by:** Road, **West by:** 15 feet Road, **North by:** Property of Smt. Rathnamma, **South by:** Road. **Standing in the name of : 1. Smt. Kalavathi W/o Sriramaiah, 2. Sri. Umakanth K S. S/o Sriramaiah, 3. Sri. Punith Kumar K S/o Sriramaiah, 4. Sri. Sriramaiah s/o Shivappa.** **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 90,45,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 9,05,000.00** | | | |
| 7 | **1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. M/S Greensol Renewable Power Pvt Ltd** No 28A , IInd phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Peenya, Bangalore-560058 **Also At :** No 3036, 2nd Floor, 8th Main, 80 feet Road, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560038 **Also At :** No 11,7th cross 1st main, SV Layout, Sanjay nagar, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094 **2.Mr Prakash Shetty ( Director and Guarantor )** No 11,7th Cross 1st Main, SV layout, Sanjay Nagar RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094 **3. Mr Jagadishchandra Shetty (Guarantor )** B103 , Nandi woods, Begur Hobli, SOS Village post, Bangalore-560076 **4. Mr Srinivas S P(Director and Guarantor )** No 44, 2nd Cross, Ramaiah Layout Kammanhalli Sr. Thomas Town post, Bangalore-560084 **5. Mr Ramalingam S(Director and Guarantor)** No 76 8th Cross, Celebrity Paradise Housing Doddathogur, Bangalore-560100 **6. Mrs Neetha P Shetty( Guarantor )** No 11,7th cross 1st Main, SV layout, Sanjay Nagar RMV 2nd stage, Bangalore-560094 **2) Canara Bank - Trinity Circle branch Mob no 8838666873, Ph. No. 080- 25306313** | **1) Rs. 14,10,38,032.28** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.** | 1) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 2) 26.03.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 1,00,000/- | 1. 27.03.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 25.03.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm |
| | **Description of the immovable assets: 1.** All that piece and parcel of the immovable property at H L No 100/B, in the property No 11B Old Assessment No 26 and 27, situated at Bhoopasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Presently Corporation No 11,7th Cross,1st Main Road,Siddi Vinayaka Layout, Sanjaynagar, Bangalore City Corporation Ward No 100 and measuring, **East To West :** 50 Feet, **North To South:** (38+44)/2 Feet, **Total: 2050 Sq Feet.** Bounded on the: **East By:** Site No 12B, **West By:** Site No 10A, **North By:** Site No 11, **South By:** Road Together with all right and appurtenances standing thereon. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 4,10,00,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 41,00,000.00** **2.** All that piece and parcel of Leasehold rights in respect of the Plot bearing No 30-B1 admeasuring 6101.00 sq Mtrs situated at Avverahalli Industrial Area culled out of Sy Nos 36/1,38/1 and 38/2 situated at K G Srinivasapura Village, Sompura Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore rural District allotted in the name of M/s Greensol Renewable Power Pvt Ltd. Lease period is 10 years vide lease cum sale agreement dated 21.03.2019. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs. 5,62,00,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 56,20,000.00** | | | |

**For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 79797 89851**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

**Place: Bangalore, Date : 10.03.2025** **Authorized Officer, Canara Bank**

KEYWORD

# The warp and weft of existentialism and svadharma

Understanding the intellectual tissue that binds the existentialists of the Western canon, such as Kierkegaard and Sartre, with the hoary dharmic philosophers of ancient India

Prathmesh Kher

GETTY IMAGES

"It is certain that we cannot escape anguish, for we are anguish," Jean-Paul Sartre wrote in *Being and Nothingness*. It is as if he was reflecting on Arjuna's confusion at the outset of the Kurukshetra war. "I am confused about my dharma, and am besieged with anxiety and faintheartedness," Arjuna beseeches Krishna.

But what exactly is this dharma? Traditionally, dharma is taken to mean life affirming "orders and customs", "virtues", "righteousness", "religious and moral duties" or "law". The term sanatana dharma has found a revival in recent history, and refers to that part of dharma which is eternal. The now famed dictum, "speak the truth, speak it pleasantly. do not speak truth unpleasantly. do not speak untruth pleasantly. that is the eternal dharma", rather succinctly captures the meaning of santana dharma.

However, as with the English word 'law', the word 'dharma' has taken on different connotations. This is clear from terms such as laws of nature (*prakritidharma*), laws of war (*yuddhadharma*) etc. In this sense, the dharma of one individual in the context of his or her society is one's *svadharma* – the code that determines one's conduct in relation with oneself and with others. A more subtle explanation is expounded on in the Mahabharata. Therein it states, "it is said that dharma is that which is held; (and) held it holds the people. That which holds together; that is assuredly dharma." And yet in our age, plagued with zealotries of one sort or another, such a unifying vision hardly exists.

**The individual, above all**

In an age of fanatical revivalism, there has been a recrudescence of elaborate pageantry and ceremonial pomp. The undiscovered individual is squandered in the pursuit of a herdlike faith. How then is the individual to find oneself in this labyrinth of race, caste, creed, and faith?

To that end, the philosophy of existentialism propounded in the 19th and 20th centuries, provided a bulwark against the growing collectivist tendencies of that age. Danish theologian and philosopher Søren Kierkegaard was a pioneering influence in what came to be known as Christian Existentialism. "The key is to find a purpose, whatever it truly is that God wills me to do; it's crucial to find a truth which is true to me, to find the idea which I am willing to live and die for," Kierkegaard wrote.

Reeling from the shock of the collective massacre of the Second World War, Jean Paul Sartre, Simone De Beauvoir et al conceptualised what is the bulk of the extant existentialist philosophy. Sartre in his seminal lecture, *Existentialism is a Humanism*, contends that, "This is humanism, because we remind man that there is no legislator but himself; that he himself, thus abandoned, must decide for himself." It is this self-legislating aspect of existentialism that finds its intersection with the philosophy of *svadharma*.

"Man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world – and defines himself afterwards," Sartre had said in *Existentialism is a Humanism*. The philosopher was speaking of the primacy of the existence of an individual before all the many layers of identity are superimposed atop. This notion is not new to Indian philosophical tradition.

"In the beginning, this was but the self of a human form. It reflected and found nothing else but oneself. It first uttered, I AM", declares the Brihadaranakya Upanishad stipulating that identification always comes after existence. Similarly, "Put me in a system and you negate me. I am not a mathematical symbol. I am," Kierkegaard had said once.

The idea is a perennial one. To find oneself, one must see oneself as apart from the whole and one with the whole in similitude. To be one with all things, one must first identify oneself as separate from the whole; only when this illusion of separation is stultified can one discover oneself in a true sense.

But what happens to one's choices in a society that is dictated by caste and class and creed, where social forces determine the position of the individual within its vast tapestry?

**Identity, within and without**

Sartre anticipates this quandary, and responds to it in *Dirty Hands*: "I was not the one to invent lies: they were created in a society divided by class and each of us inherited lies when we were born." The ancient Indian seer Ashtavakra, describes this dilemma in the context not of class but of an age ridden by caste. "You are neither a brahmana nor of any other caste, nor are you at any stage of life (asrama)" the boy sage stated in his Ashtavakra Gita.

In a single declaration, all social conventions with regards to varna and jati are laid bare. It is the individual human who comes first and social conventions are creations of men at a later stage. "Freedom's possibility is not the ability to choose the good or the evil. The possibility is to be able," Kierkegaard writes in his *The Concept of Anxiety*.

Referring to a little Parisian scene at a café where a waiter who is "playing at being a waiter in a café", Sartre declares "the waiter in the café cannot be immediately a café waiter in the sense that this inkwell is an inkwell". These words about the play acting of one's role in life, reflects Karna's proud declaration in the 7th century work *Venisanhaar*, "charioteer or charioteer's son or this or that shall one be; God decides the clan of one's birth but my manhood is all by me."

"When I chose the hardest path, I made my choice deliberately. A man is what he wills himself to be," Sartre writes in the play *No Exit* almost recalling Karna's declaration.

How is the individual to operate in this world of competing identities and contrasting ideologies. Nations, the state, caste, creed, religions, faith traditions, races, and even languages, all seem to pull the individual apart. "I cannot make liberty my aim unless I make that of others equally my aim," Sartre opines in *Existentialism Is a Humanism*. This notion that one's own liberation is bounded with the freedom of others, is an idea that finds a voice in the Bhagavad Gita. "Act must thou with a view to bring the world together" says Krishna in his oration to Arjuna.

**A divine question**

As a Christian Existentialist, Kierkegaard declared in his *Works of Love*, "Only by loving God above all else can one love the neighbour. Love for the neighbour is therefore the eternal equality in loving." For Kierkegaard, the individual's actions are determined by the knowledge of oneself in his or her capacity to shape and reshape their own self-identity since that freedom is a brute fact originating from God. Nothing binds him to his relationships, and as such nothing binds him to his past actions. In this sense, Kierkegaard preludes to the type of Existentialism, particularly espoused in the early 1940s, which stood on the dictum that "existence precedes essence".

However, the atheistic doctrines that ensconced Sartre and his peers denied the need for a God to provide this freedom. In *Saint Genet*, Sartre states: "For those who want 'to change life", 'to reinvent love,' God is nothing but a hindrance." Does such an atheistic position square with the doctrine of *svadharma*?

"He who has served and helped one poor man, seeing Shiva in him, without thinking of his caste, or creed, or race, or anything, with him Shiva is more pleased than with the man who sees him only in temples," Swami Vivekananda had said in his *Practical Vedanta*.

**Absolute freedom**

In *The Age of Reason*, Sartre states: "He was free, free in every way, free to behave like a fool or a machine, free to accept, free to refuse, free to equivocate; to marry, to give up the game, to drag this death weight about with him for years to come. He could do what he liked, no one had the right to advise him, there would be for him no Good or Evil unless he thought them into being." Ashtavakra renders the same sentiment in this fashion, "neither duty nor obligation exists for the yogin; to the one liberated in life, this life is all there is."

But leaving aside of all things predefined would be for most people a plunge into desperation. Our relationship with human society and its constituents, our personal history placed in the midst of world history, is the predicate for most people. Their identity as a whole, is defined by these external factors. Giving all that up, knowing that it is a superimposition onto one's real self, can be a crippling thought for most. "With despair, true optimism begins: the optimism of the man who expects nothing, who knows he has no rights and nothing coming to him, who rejoices in counting on himself alone and in acting alone for the good of all," Sartre wrote in *On Existentialism: A Focus*.

"Better to die following one's own law than to die pursuing the law of another" is Krishna's dictum for those plagued with the angst of realising oneself being pulled apart by the various forces of identity.

Therefore, two somewhat dissonant concepts, the existentialist vision of freedom and the dharmic notion of liberation in life can exist, and possibly thrive, in harmony.

As Sartre put it: "If I am an incarnation of freedom, it is directed at me; I am the source of it." The Chandogya Upanishad said: "What a person wills in his present, he becomes in the future. One should bear this in mind and will accordingly." Kierkegaard illustrates this becoming in a most refined way in his *Either/Or,* "When around one everything has become silent, solemn as a clear, starlit night, when the soul comes to be alone in the whole world, then before one there appears, not an extraordinary human being, but the eternal power itself, then the heavens open, and the I chooses itself or, more correctly, receives itself."

It is this will to freedom, of which the individual is both the cause and the conclusion, that seekers of freedom must draw towards in this age of competing compulsions.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What is the meaning of 'dipsomania'?"

" 'Dipsomania' means 'extreme dependence on alcoholic drinks'. A 'dipsomaniac' is one who is suffering from dipsomania. Some dipsomaniacs are sober only when they are drunk."

"Is the 'i' in 'directive' pronounced like the 'i' in 'fit' or like the 'i' in 'five'?"

"Both are acceptable."

"What is the meaning of 'fortuitous'?"

" 'Fortuitous' means 'happening by chance'. It was a fortuitous meeting. 'Fortuitous' is a formal word. The first 'o' is pronounced like the 'aw' in 'law', the 'u' like the 'u' in 'use', 'ou' like the 'a' in 'China'."

"Is it correct to use 'sabotage' as a verb?"

"Yes. There was a time when some writers objected to its use as a verb. One of them, Sir Alan Herbert, said: 'Let us by all means sabotage the verb for the robust word 'wreck' will always do the same work better'. Sabotage is 'deliberate and organised destruction of plant, machinery, etc. by dissatisfied workmen, hence, generally any malicious or wanton destruction'. The verb continues to be used and hasn't been sabotaged."

"What is the difference between 'momentary' and 'momentous'?"

" 'Momentary' means 'lasting for a very short period'. There was a momentary pause in his speech. I had a momentary suspicion that he was not telling the truth. 'Momentous' means 'very important, serious'. The Board took some momentous decisions."

"What is the meaning of 'yap'?"

" 'To yap' means 'to talk noisily and foolishly'. He yapped away the whole afternoon. It is slang."

"Is the 't' in 'hasten' pronounced?"

"No. The 'a' in 'hasten' is pronounced like the 'ei' in 'eight'."

*Published in The Hindu on September 19, 1995*

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

## Lithuania became the first country to declare independence from the Soviet Union on March 11, 1991. Here is a quiz on countries that were part of the Soviet Union

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

**QUESTION 1**
The capital of which present day country hosted the meeting in 1920 where the Communist Party of India was formed?

**QUESTION 2**
Auroch, an extinct wild bovine, is the national animal of which former Soviet state?

**QUESTION 3**
Which former Soviet state is called the land of fire?

**QUESTION 4**
The flag of which former Soviet state depicts the sun with 40 rays for 40 tribes in the region?

**QUESTION 5**
The name of which former Soviet state stems from the phrase 'white Russian'?

**Visual question:**
In which country is this burning gas crater, nicknamed 'door to hell', located?

**Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The _____ _____ ___ (1936-1939) anticipated many of the characteristics of World War II, including the cross-ideological opposition to fascism as a state ideology. **Ans: Spanish Civil War**

2. The two-word label given to the ideology that draws from both Stalinism and fascism. **Ans: Red fascism**

3. This movement shares its name with that of the organisation founded during the Weimar republic. **Ans: Antifa**

4. On March 7, workers in many mines in the area assumed control of their management and proclaimed the area to be a new republic called this. **Ans: Labin Republic**

5. In 1945, four countries established a joint tribunal that conducted the event known popularly as the _____ _____. **Ans: Nuremberg Trials**

Visual: Name the symbol at the bottom depicting a pair of bound bundles of wood with an axe passing through and emerging from the top. **Ans: Fasces**

**Early Birds:** Joe V.R.| Abhijeet Ranjan

## Word of the day

**Emollient:**

toiletry consisting of any of various substances in the form of a thick liquid that have a soothing and moisturising effect when applied to the skin; having a softening or soothing effect

Synonyms: cream, ointment, demulcent, salving

Usage: *By and large, this approach has proved useful and even emollient.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/emollientpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪˈmɒl.ɪ.ənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

# BYV claims involvement of Minister in Ranya Rao case

Karnataka BJP president alleged that Ranya Rao could not have smuggled gold worth crores by violating protocols without the direct support of influential figures in the Siddaramaiah government

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Ranya Rao gold smuggling case boiled over into a political controversy on Monday after BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra alleged involvement of a "prominent Minister in Siddaramaiah's government".

Without taking any names, Mr. Vijayendra said media reports of a Minister's involvement in "one of the biggest gold heists in recent times" was no surprise, as she could not have smuggled gold worth crores by violating protocols if not for the direct support of influential figures in the Karnataka government.

B.Y. Vijayendra

In a post on X, Mr. Vijayendra said: "As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would have received intelligence reports pinpointing the suspected Ministers and their involvement, any attempt by the government to shield those responsible will only backfire, especially with the CBI now stepping in. The truth will come out, and any cover-up will only further expose the government's complicity in this grievous offence."

Mr. Vijayendra's comments come a day after the the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) released a statement about the allotment of land in February 2023 by the previous BJP government to Ranya Rao to set up a steel plant in Tumakuru.

KIADB CEO Mahesh clarified that M/s Ksiroda India Pvt. Ltd., a company linked to Ranya Rao, was allotted 12 acres of land on January 2, 2023, when the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government was in power.

The land, located in Sira Industrial Area, Tumakuru district, was approved for allotment during the 137th State Level Single Window Clearance Committee meeting held on the same day. According to a press release, the company had submitted a proposal to set up a manufacturing unit for Steel TMT bars, rods, and allied products, with an investment of ₹138 crore. The project was expected to generate approximately 160 jobs. However, the project was automatically cancelled because the project conditions were not adhered to.

Meanwhile, speaking in Belagavi, Murugesh Nirani, former Industries Minister and BJP leader, has said that there were no violations of any rules during the transfer of land to a firm owned by Ranya Rao back in 2023.

# 'Neither CBI nor DRI has shared info with State govt.'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Monday maintained that the State government did not know about the CBI investigation into the gold smuggling case involving actor Ranya Rao as neither the CBI nor the Department of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have shared any information with it.

"We came to know about the CBI taking over the case through the media," Dr. Parameshwara told the Legislative Assembly, while replying to the issue raised by BJP member V. Sunil Kumar during Zero Hour. He said no information had been shared with the State government on the probe by either the DRI or the CBI.

G. Parameshwara

At the same time, he said the State police too were probing the incident at their level.

"The DRI that brought the issue of gold smuggling to light and the airport where the accused was arrested do not come under the authority of the State government. However, our police are investigating at their level various issues, including the alleged use of official vehicles by the accused," Dr. Parameshwara said.

**Minister's involvement**

Referring to reports in a section of the press that two Ministers from Karnataka were involved in the case, he said: "Let the CBI look into this angle too and unearth the truth."

Earlier, Mr. Sunil Kumar expressed concern over the media reports and wondered if the gold smuggling business had the blessings of politically influential persons. He urged the government to crack a whip on gold smuggling, while expressing fear that Bengaluru city may emerge as the hub of gold smuggling, if preventive measures were not taken quickly.

# Caste certificate has to be validated if those of parents have not been verified: High Court

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The caste certificate of a person, belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, seeking public employment requires to be validated as per the law if the caste certificates of parents of such person have not been validated/verified, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Also, the court said the caste certificate, issued under Section 4A of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Backward Classes (Reservation of Appointments, Etc.,) Act, 1990, is not conclusive and there is no presumption of validity attached it.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Shravana Kumar D. Nayak, President of State SC/ST Prevention of Bogus Caste Certificate Committee, Kalaburagi.

The petitioner had questioned the appointment of one Meenakshi to the post of assistant accounts officer in Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Ltd., under ST quota even though she 'belongs to other backward classes." The district caste verification committee had rejected her caste claim but the appellate authority had accepting her claim as ST. The court has now quashed the appellate authority's February 27, 2024, order and remitted the matter for fresh consideration.

"Although caste is hereditary in nature and one can be associated to a particular caste only by being born into that caste-community, it is pertinent to note that the caste of the parents or ancestors merely creates an eligibility to apply and avail a caste status certificate and does not by itself conclude or determine with finality the caste of a person in the eyes of law," the Court observed.

However, if the caste certificates of the parents have been validated and verified, then there would be no need for the children to get the said certificates validated, the court said while pointing out that caste certificates of Ms. Meenakshi's parents were not verified as per the law as they had not sought employment in public services.

Verification/validation of caste certificate is mandatory in terms of the 1990 Act and the rules framed under this law as among other reasons, it is aimed at safeguarding the interests of persons belonging to SC/ST communities from fraudulent persons, who seek to claim reservation without being eligible to do so, the court said.

The SC/ST caste certificate issued by the tahsildar under Section 4A of the Act of 1990 is not conclusive and there is no presumption of validity attached thereto as such certificate is amenable for challenge, verification by the DCVC, appeal against committee's findings, etc., the court said.

The court also made it clear that it is only after standing the test of all the amenable processes, that a certificate can be said to be valid and acted upon conferring the benefits attached to such certificate by way of reservation either in education or in public employment.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | |
|---|---|
| **TUESDAY, MAR. 11** | |
| RISE | 06:29 SET 18:30 |
| RISE | 16:15 SET 04:29 |
| **WEDNESDAY, MAR. 12** | |
| RISE | 06:29 SET 18:30 |
| RISE | 17:06 SET 05:10 |
| **THURSDAY, MAR. 13** | |
| RISE | 06:28 SET 18:30 |
| RISE | 17:53 SET 05:48 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 34 | 22 |
| Mysuru | 34 | 19 |
| Bengaluru | 35 | 20 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**34°C** Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be leasant. Dry weather to prevail.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**33°C** The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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# Centre for Advanced Research in Aging to be established at IISc

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has awarded support to the Longevity India Initiative at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to establish a Centre for Advanced Research in Aging.

This was announced at the inaugural day of the 'Longevity India Conference 2025 – Rise for Healthy Aging' at IISc. This centre is expected to be a significant milestone in India's efforts to address the challenges of aging and age-related diseases.

The centre will explore India-specific biomarkers, create organ-specific ageing models, and study the gut-brain connection, in order to develop strategies for healthy aging through biology, data science, and clinical research.

The Indian Institute of Science.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said: "Longevity is not just about living longer, but living healthier, contributing, and staying active. With good habits and advancements in medical science, one can remain active and engaged throughout their life."

"With the average age in India increasing and solutions to infectious diseases already in place, lifestyle diseases will become a major challenge for the future of our healthcare system. Understanding aging – both at the molecular and genetic levels, as well as the environmental factors that influence it – is essential. I believe that by bringing together experts from diverse fields to take a holistic approach, we can develop innovative solutions for healthy aging and pave the way for future advancements for the same," Navakanta Bhat, dean, Division of Interdisciplinary Sciences, IISc, said.

With the key theme of Biological Foundations and Mechanisms of Aging, the conference highlighted notable developments and trends through four major sessions covering aging research, biological mechanisms, lifestyle medicine, and holistic health approaches.

# Kumbh Mela: Man held for cheating

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Govindarajanagar police arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly cheating people by promising to take them to the Kumbh Mela and escaped after collecting ₹70 lakh.

The accused, Raghavendra Rao, who had worked with local TV channels, posted ads on social media offering tour packages for seven days, which would cover Varanasi, Ayodhya, Prayagraj, and other places in Uttar Pradesh.

He posted some photographs of the trips that were held initially to lure others.

Many people, especially senior citizens, paid ₹49,000 per seat as booking price. So far, 21 police complaints have been registered at the Govindarajnagar police station. The majority of the victims are senior citizens, the police said.

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# Student caught at KIA with fake visa

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Immigration officials at the Kempegowda International Airport caught a 23-year-old student from Punjab trying to fly to the United Kingdom with a fake visa.

The accused Arbaz Khan, a resident of Jalandhar, had submitted the documents at immigration for clearance issued by a private shipping company to employ him as a seaman for a private ship in the U.K. The officials checked the documents and found that the papers were fake and handed him over to the police.

Based on a complaint, the police have arrested Arbaz Kha.

# Police hunt for accused who harassed student

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Ashoknagar police are on the lookout for an scooter rider who slapped the back of a 20-year-old college student in a bid to harass her and sped away.

The incident, according to the police, occurred on March 6 around 10.15 p.m. near St. Michael's Church in Shantinagar. The victim was walking along with two of her friends when the accused, on a white scooter, slapped her back and sped away.

The victim narrated the incident in college the next day before approaching the police on March 8.

**Businessman beaten up**

In another incident, a 41-year-old businessman and two of his friends were allegedly beaten up by a group of five youth on Brigade road recently.

The victim, Lingaraju A., stated in his complaint that he and his friends, Naveen and Satyanarayana, were walking on the footpath after visiting a restaurant, when Naveen accidentally confronted a girl.

The youth, mistaking it to be harassment, allegedly attacked them.

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# Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill passed amid walkout by Opposition

Congress says unless Bengaluru's administration is restructured, it can't address problems as each area has different issues

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amid protest, slogan shouting, and walk out by the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) members, the Legislative Assembly on Monday cleared The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, that seeks to establish Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) for coordinating and supervising the development of the Greater Bengaluru Area.

The Bill that had been earlier referred to the Joint Select Committee attracted criticism for proposing to split Bengaluru city to a maximum of seven corporations, which the BJP members opposed. They urged the State government to retain the single corporation character for governance.

**'Failed experiment'**

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok described it as an "emotional issue" as Kannadigas would lose their political hold on city administration in areas dominated by non-Kannadigas and warned the government that it will have to face the "curse of future generation" if it goes ahead with the proposed legislation. He argued that the idea of smaller corporations had failed in other parts of the country, including Delhi, and feared that there would be revenue disparities among the small corporations as those having IT hubs like Mahadevapura would get more income.

Pointing out that all the seven proposed smaller corporations would come under the Chief Minister, Mr. Ashok wondered if this was not against the spirit of 74th amendment brought in by the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to increase the autonomy for local bodies.

The BJP members said that though they favoured administrative decentralisation, they were opposed to decisions based on politics. Yelahanka legislator S.R. Vishwanath expressed fears that there could be political discrimination by the State government in providing grants to resource deficit corporations in case different parties hold power in the government and the corporation. He also said that the GBA should wait until the delimitation exercise is completed so that the boundaries of Legislative Assembly constituencies are known.

Responding to the concerns, Congress legislator from Shivajinagar Rizwan Arshad, who headed the Joint Select Committee, defended the decentralisation and said unless Bengaluru administration is restructured, it cannot address the problems as each area had different issues. "We have only suggested up to seven corporation keeping in mind the future growth of population. It can also mean that we can start from two corporations. We have asked the government to fill the revenue shortfall for corporations that do not have resources."

**Strengthening city**

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the city cannot be managed in the current form with administration, garbage, drainage, and water, among other issues, that needed solution. "We are only strengthening the city. We are not splitting it. When districts have been split for administrative convenience, then why not Bengaluru?" Referring to his "even Gods cannot fix Bengaluru" statement recently, he said: "I meant we cannot do magic. It requires proper planning and execution. In this context, I referred to God."

Earlier, piloting the Bill, Mr. Shivakumar said the proposed legislation would create history. "Bengaluru belongs to everyone, including those who live in other areas of the State, as it is in the heart of everyone. The entire world is watching Bengaluru. Hence, there is a dire need to take measures to properly govern this city," he said.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Debate in Assembly over ELCITA

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amid call from his party colleagues to bring the Electronic City Industrial Township Authority (ELCITA) under the Greater Bengaluru Authority, BJP Malleswaram legislator C.N. Ashwath Narayan appealed to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar not to disturb its functioning.

He told the Legislative Assembly that the authority's handling of garbage, road, and traffic is a model, and it shares 30% of its revenue with neighbouring local bodies. However, Bengaluru South legislator M. Krishnappa said that what they were seeking was transparency in revenue collection and a high share with neighbouring local bodies to undertake development works. He said the local bodies were struggling to mobilise resources on their own. Bommanahalli legislator Satish Reddy also echoed similar sentiments.

Mr. Shivakumar acknowledged there was a lacunae. "We created it during S.M. Krishna government and I am to be blamed for it. The government will consider the suggestion."

## 'Corporations will have control over revenue'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Chairman of the House panel, MLA Rizwan Arshad, told *The Hindu* that "a significant change in the present Bill is that corporations will have absolute control over their revenue. In contrast, the previous Bill, which was tabled and sent to the recommendation committee, proposed the Greater Bengaluru Authority control over revenue.

Under the earlier provisions, the Greater Bengaluru Authority maintained a dedicated revenue account and had the authority to disburse funds to corporations based on their requirements."

However, the Bill passed in the Lower House on Monday proposes dedicated revenue accounts for each corporation, granting them the right to independently utilise these funds. In the event of a financial shortfall in any corporation, the State government will be responsible for providing financial assistance to maintain fiscal balance among the corporations.

## Somashekar does not join colleagues

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

BJP Yeshwantpur legislator S.T. Somashekar, who has distanced himself from the BJP, not only sang eulogy of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, but also supported the Greater Bengaluru Authority Bill even as his party colleagues opposed it. While his party colleagues staged a walkout, he refused to join them. This drew the ire of his party legislator Suresh Gowda, who asked him to seek a separate chair. "You are insulting us," he said as he walked past him.

## On private layouts

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Mnister D.K. Shivakumar said the decision on the Urban Development Department to approve plans of all private layout across the State has not yet been finalised.

In response to a question from Krishnaraja legislator T.S. Srivatsa, he said that in the light of problems in MUDA, the decision is yet to be taken.

# Assembly adopts Bill to replace Ordinance on MFIs, three other related Bills to protect loanees

IN THE LEGISLATURE

**'The legislation had become necessary to prevent recovery agents from behaving in an undignified manner with loanees'**

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Assembly on Monday adopted the Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill that seeks to replace an Ordinance that had been promulgated earlier to protect defaulters from harassment by recovery agents from unlicensed and unregistered microfinance institutions (MFIs).

As part of efforts to further protect the interests of poor loanees, the Assembly adopted three more Bills - Karnataka Pawn Brokers (Amendment) Bill, Karnataka Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill, and Karnataka Prohibition of Charging Exorbitant Interest (Amendment) Bill.

**Exemption to cooperative banks**

Piloting the Bill to replace the Ordinance, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil introduced an amendment as per the suggestion of Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna to exempt the cooperative institutions/banks and Souharda institutions and banks from the purview of the Bill as they are guided by strict norms stipulated by the RBI.

Mr. Patil said the legislation had become necessary to instil confidence among loanees and also prevent recovery agents from behaving in an undignified manner with them in the wake of 15 defaulters committing suicide recently.

He expressed concern that studies had revealed that unregistered microfinance firms had involved in lending to the tune of ₹40,000 crore in the State. "This is nothing but black money which is in circulation," the Minister said, and pointed out that they were charging exorbitant interest rates that even touched 120% a year and 10% a month.

The poor people who would take small sums of money were actually being fleeced by such lenders, he said. "The poor vegetable vendors take loans from such private unregistered money lenders on a daily basis before procuring vegetables for sales in the morning. If they borrow ₹5,000, the moneylenders deduct ₹500 and give them only ₹4,500. The vegetable vendors will have to return ₹5,000 by the end of the day. This works out to ₹500 or 10% a day," Mr. Patil said.

He also said that there would be 10 to 20 motorcycles parked in front of the houses of moneylenders as they illegally take away the vehicles from defaulters without giving them time to pay up the instalments.

**'Show commitment'**

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok argued that simply bringing in a legislation will not help solve the problem. He urged the government to show political commitment in acting against illegal moneylenders.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Arvind Bellad sought to link the problem with the corruption in the Police Department. Alleging that the police were hand-in-glove with unauthorised moneylenders, he maintained that the problem could be resolved if the government ensures that police transfers take place without involving money.

# Council passes palace Bill; Oppn. calls it 'political vendetta'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amid allegations of "political vendetta" and a walkout by the Opposition members, the Council passed the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Bill, 2025.

The Bill – that is expected to help the State government address the contempt petition it faces in the Supreme Court, besides retaining the right to acquire or not the palace land for road widening – was moved to replace the Ordinance that had been promulgated earlier.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, who tabled the Bill in the Council, said it gave power to the State to acquire or not acquire the palace land.

H.K. Patil

"The Bangalore Palace covers a total area of 472 acres and 16 guntas and its total value was determined at ₹11 crore in 1996. However, the land issue is in the Supreme Court. Now, 14 acres of it is being used for road widening. However, the Supreme Court has ordered ₹3,000 crore Transferable Development Rights to be given to the Mysore Maharaja's family. However, the value of the land is not that much. It is not possible to give such a huge amount," the Minister said.

**'Hold talks'**

Terming the move of the government as a "political vendetta", Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said the contribution of the Mysore royal family to this country was great. "This is nothing but political vendetta. The government should first hold talks with the royal family," he said.

## SNIPPETS

### Amended APMC Bill seeks to include e-commerce platforms

The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, that seeks to bring e-commerce platforms under the government ambit in order to collect cess was passed by Assembly. APMC Minister Shivanand Patil said the term "warehouse service provider" has been inserted to bring e-commerce platform under the ambit of APMC to collect cess.

### Concern over shortage of vets

Members cutting across party affiliations in the Assembly on Monday expressed concern over shortage of veterinary doctors at government veterinary hospitals. This had hit animal husbandry in the State as farmers had to carry their cattle from villages to taluk and district hospitals, they said. Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh said the government had taken measures to recruit 300 doctors on contract. But some doctors had not reported to duty.

### Development corpn. for Jains

The government assured the Assembly of considering setting up the Jain Development Corporation. Replying to Congress member Laxman Savadi during Question Hour, Minorities Welfare Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed said there were 20 lakh Jains in Karnataka. He had taken up the proposal with CM Siddaramaiah on setting up a development corporation for them, he said.

## 'Scientific review of ration cards after session'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa informed the Council that a scientific review of ration cards will be taken up after the Budget session of the State Legislature.

Responding to BJP member C.T. Ravi, Mr. Muniyappa said there are 1.24 crore BPL cards in the State, of which 20 lakh are ineligible BPL cards. "The National Food Security Act provides for issuing 75% BPL cards in rural areas and 50% in urban areas. As per this, only 4.01 crore beneficiaries are eligible for BPL benefits in Karnataka. But, the State has 4.34 crore beneficiaries from 1.24 crore families under BPL category, which means the State has 65.96% BPL cardholders," he said.

Mr. Muniyappa said: "If 99 APL cards are included in the BPL category, no one will question. But if a single BPL card is left out, it will create a huge controversy."

## Minister warns of action against govt. doctors who take up private practice during working hours

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday informed the Legislative Council that doctors working in government hospitals will have to mandatorily work from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Strict instructions have been given in this regard, he said.

Responding to Congress member Balkees Banu, Mr. Patil said government doctors will not be allowed to take up private practice during working hours for any reason.

"There are complaints by patients that doctors are not available in government hospitals during working hours and are instead practicing in other places. I have issued strict instructions to the hospital heads to monitor such absenteeism and ensure doctors are available in the government facilities from 9 a.m. to 4 pm."

"Earlier, the working hours were from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. But, now the timings have been extended and doctors must be available in their workplaces from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. There are complaints that some doctors come in an hour late and leave an hour early. To prevent this, we have introduced a biometrics attendance system, wherein the government staff in hospitals are supposed to mark their attendance four times a day - 9 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. Their salaries will be processed based on the attendance. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who violate these rules," the Minister said.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil in the Legislative Council on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**BMAT centres**

Expressing concern over the increasing cases of childhood cancer, Mr. Patil informed the Council that Bone Marrow Aspiration and Biopsy (BMAT) centres will be started in Mysuru and Hubballi soon.

Replying to Congress member Umashree, Mr. Patil said that the intention is to set up these centres in all the hoblis of the State.

"In the initial phase, the centres will be started in Hubballi and Mysuru. A cancer screening unit is already functioning in Kidwai Hospital in Bengaluru. Similarly, we have started a centre in Kalaburagi. We are also planning to start one in Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health," Mr. Patil said.

## Sub-standard drugs: State extra cautious

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

To deal with the issue of sub-standard drugs, the State Health Department is now getting samples of drugs tested after procurement from successful bidders at the State-level before they are supplied to district warehouses, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

Responding to BJP member Talwar Sabanna, Mr. Rao said 10 additional NABL laboratories have been empanelled for drug testing in the State. He said a proposal has been sent to the Finance Department to include a tender condition for officials to personally visit the drug manufacturing companies annually or once in every two years to check the quality of the products.

"The Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL) is being strengthened to ensure the distribution of quality medicines to public health institutions. We are also coming out with a drug recall policy to ensure that substandard drugs are recalled from the market both in the government and private sector," he said. "With most sub-standard drugs being supplied by manufacturers from outside the State, we have also written to the Centre seeking action against such companies," Mr. Rao said.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao speaking in the Legislative Council on Monday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

To avoid doctors writing prescriptions to patients to buy medicine from outside pharmacies, the number of essential drugs being indented for procurement through Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has been increased from 732 to 1,084.

# How the Bangalore Palace Bill will help State govt. bypass Supreme Court ruling?

The legislation arises out of the nearly a decade-old contempt case over the Bangalore Palace Grounds, which the State govt. has been fighting with the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru in the SC

EXPLAINER

Nalme Nachiyar
BENGALURU

A file photo of the Bangalore Palace, located right in the heart of Bengaluru city and built by Chamaraja Wodeyar, Maharaja of Mysore in 1887.

The compound wall for the Palace Grounds built along Jayamahal Road in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Jayamahal Road in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**The story so far**

Even as the opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) vociferously opposed it and called it an act of "political vendetta", the Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Bill, 2025, on March 6. It was passed in the Legislative Council on March 10.

The legislation arises out of the nearly a decade-old contempt case over the Bangalore Palace Grounds, which the Karnataka government has been fighting with the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru in the Supreme Court.

Replacing an Ordinance that was passed earlier, the Bill reserves the Karnataka government's right to acquire or not acquire the Palace Grounds land for the widening of the traffic-choked Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road.

Apart from helping the State government address the contempt petition, the Bill is seen as a move to circumvent the top court's order that had earlier directed the government to compensate the Mysuru royal family with Transferable Development Rights (TDR) worth ₹3,400 crore for taking over the land.

**What does the Bill say?**

The Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Bill, 2025, empowers the State Government to utilise any portion of the Bangalore Palace for an infrastructure project, and to decide whether to go ahead with it, in whole or in part.

If the government proceeds with the project, it will pay the required compensation to the claimants for the portion of palace land utilised. The Bill defines "claimants" as those who have a right, title, or interest in the Bangalore Palace or the open space around it. However, if the State decides to drop the project, it holds the right to restore possession of the part of the Bangalore Palace land which was sought. While it will bear the entire expenditure for this, it will not compensate the claimants.

The Bill states that for the purpose of compensation, the guidance value will be calculated as of November 21, 1996, according to section 8 and section 9 of the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996. This is in direct contradiction to the apex court's directions to calculate the compensation according to the guidance value of Stamps and Registration Department, revised in 2023-24, under undersection 45B of the Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957.

The Bill says that the compensation paid to the claimants will be proportionate to the extent of the land used and will include TDR. Granting the government absolute authority, the Bill states that whatever compensation is prescribed under it is final, and the claimants have no other right to compensation.

In the event of a dispute over compensation between claimants, the Bill gives power to the State government to deposit the compensation before the Commissioner, who will be appointed by the government. None of the claimants can withdraw any part of this compensation without furnishing a copy of the final order from a civil court to the Commissioner. In all matters of release of compensation to the rightful recipient among the legally embattled claimants, the decision of the Commissioner is absolute.

In another measure that seeks to give the government full control over the property, the Bill protects officers of the State Government or its instrumentalities (such as BDA and BBMP) from proceedings, civil or criminal, or any punishment for an "action taken in good faith".

**Why was the land acquired?**

The Bangalore Palace Grounds, located in the heart of Bengaluru city, is spread across 472 acres and 16 guntas of expansive land. In 2009, the Karnataka government decided to notify 15 acres and 17.5 guntas (62,475 square metres) for widening stretches on the traffic-choked Ballari Road and Jayamahal Road.

While the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) calculated the TDR value, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) issued a notice to provide TDR compensation of ₹1 crore to the property owners – the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru. In July, 2024, the BDA took possession of the palace grounds and handed it over to the BBMP.

**How was the valuation done?**

Amid confusions that the TDR compensation would be ₹1,400 crore, the BBMP had clarified that the calculation was done based on the provisions under the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996, passed for the sole purpose of acquisition and transfer of the palace property.

With the BDA fixing a rate of ₹120.68 per square metre (based on the 1996 value of the land), officials said that 472 acres of palace land would be worth ₹11 crore, and 15 acres would be valued at ₹60 lakh, and 1.5 times the sum would come to around ₹1 crore. However, the erstwhile royal family decided to contest this "measly valuation" of the sprawling palace land, whose current market value is estimated to be around ₹100 crore per acre.

Moreover, in June 2023, when the BBMP issued a notification for acquisition of a portion of palace land for widening of Jayamahal Road from Mehkri Circle to Cantonment Railway Station, it had mentioned the "market value of the land" and had not invoked the value of land as per the Palace Acquisition Act.

**What were the Supreme Court's directions?**

On December 10, 2024, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Mysuru royals, ordering Karnataka government to issue fresh TDR as per the guidance value of adjoining lands, this time in line with the Karnataka Stamps Act, 1957. The Supreme Court fixed the value of TDR for Ballari Road at ₹2,83,500/sqm and ₹2,04,000/sqm for Jayamahal Road as per the prevailing guidance value under Section 45B of Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957. Under the TDR, the compensation is to be 1.5 times the market value or the guidance value, whichever is higher. This took the total value of the TDR to an estimated ₹3,011.66 crore.

**What is the State government's stand?**

Following the setback, the Karnataka government initially decided to drop the proposal to acquire the palace land, arguing that the TDR value fixed by the apex court had made the acquisition financially unviable.

"The Supreme Court rate for the TDR to be given for land acquisition is expected to cause financial burden on the State exchequer and will have adverse impact on financial discipline," a Karnataka Cabinet note said. The Cabinet also felt that financially unviable projects are against public interest and public policy.

Six weeks later, on January, 2025, the State government promulgated the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Ordinance, 2025. Taking a stern view of the State government's changing stands, the Supreme Court on February 27 yet again asked the Karnataka government to deposit with it the TDR certificates of over ₹3,000 crore within 10 days.

Days later, even as the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) Bill was tabled and later passed in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly during the Budget session, the Karnataka Cabinet also decided to deposit TDR certificates worth ₹3,400 crore with the Supreme Court.

However, sources said, it will be done with a request to the Supreme Court to keep the TDR certificates with it for now and take a call on whether to pay this to the royal family, based on the outcome of the petition filed before it over ownership of Bengaluru Palace Grounds.

## City-based innovators steal the show at Indian Innovation Icons 2025

The winners of Indian Innovation Icons 2025. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Marico Innovation Foundation recently marked the 10th edition of its flagship initiative, Indian Innovation Icons 2025, with a grand celebration at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The event spotlighted seven start-ups - three of which hail from Bengaluru, that are redefining innovation in India.

"These recognitions reaffirm Bengaluru's position as India's innovation capital, highlighting its role in fostering disruptive ideas with global impact," said the press release by the company. AssisTech Foundation, Astrome Technologies, and Chara Technologies were honoured for their transformative contributions to the assistive technology ecosystem, telecommunications, and electric motor systems. In the Business category, Astrome Technologies has created India's first commercial product in the E-band spectrum to provide wireless backhaul infrastructure used for telecommunication services in rural and remote areas where fibres can not reach.

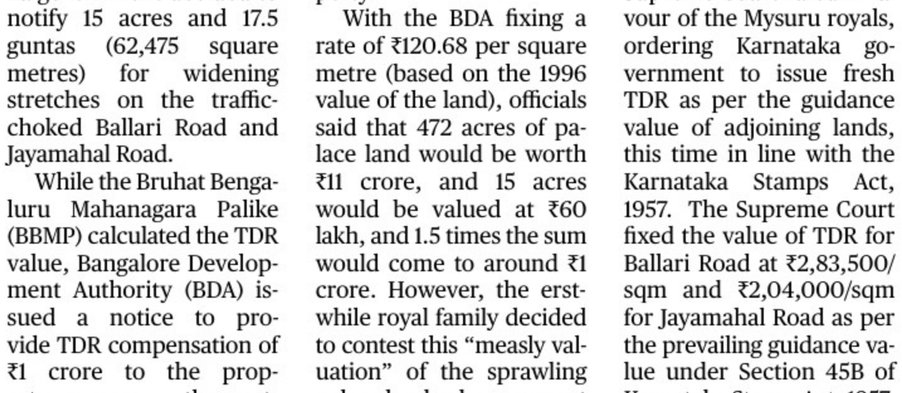
Chara Technologies has developed a rare-earth magnet-free Synchronous Reluctance Motor system for electric vehicle and industrial applications.

Social category, AssisTech Foundation, an ecosystem enabler to accelerate assistive technology (AT) start-ups, positively impacted the lives of people with disabilities through various programmes, including start-up acceleration, global collaboration, and community engagement enabling inclusion and empowerment.

## *From myth to modernity, Ganesh Mandarthi's Shivoham*

The play also talks about female characters challenging societal norms and male ego

Yemen S.
BENGALURU



A scene from Shivoham. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chronicles of India (COI), a young theatre troupe started by amateur and professional theatre artists in 2024, is set to stage another show of its first Kannada production *Shivoham*. Premiered last year, this will be COI's first show at Ranga Shankara, J.P. Nagar, on March 11.

Written, designed and directed by renowned theatre maker Ganesh Mandarthi, according to the synopsis, the play is both a mythological and social drama, intertwining two tales. One is the mythological saga of Shiva. The second tale is of a character resonating with Shiva's intensity, who emerges as a revolutionary experiencing the anguish of lost love. The synopsis by the troupe says that the play also talks about female characters challenging societal norms and male ego, striving to transcend boundaries, whether in triumph or defeat.

On the inspiration behind *Shivoham*, Ganesh Mandarthi said that Shiva has been a primary deity in the land, and he wanted to create a work inspired by him. "When Shiva loses his wife Dakshayani, he turns miserable. I wanted to show the side of Shiva where a leader of the backward community, a Yogi, and a deity of the land turns inconsolable. This is the story of how God can also become weak like us humans. The other side, or the dual life of Shiva is the inspiration behind the play," he said.

Elaborating on how the mythological and social narratives are intertwined in the play, Mandarthi said,
"Bhasmasura-Mohini, Rasaleele's Shiva and the encounter of Chandala and Shankaracharya are the three stories we have taken up in this play. In Bhasmasura Mohini, we talk about Pravati and how Vishnu took the form of Mohini to distract the demon Bhasmasura. In the second, Shiva becomes a woman to dance at the Yamuna river. In the third, Chandala's wife Chandale holds a conversation with Shankaracharya in Sanskrit. In all three stories, femininity has the upper hand." Meanwhile, the social narrative strand of the play talks about backward classes and the issues around them.

Tickets for the show at 7.30 p.m. are available at the Ranga Shankara box-office and on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1975

## No Move for Change in Leadership in Karnataka

Bangalore, March 10: The Congress president, Mr. D.K. Barooah, told newsmen here today there was no proposal to change the leadership in Karnataka.

Mr. Barooah said he did not remember whether anybody had discussed the question of changing the leadership of Mr. Devaraj Urs with him when his attention was drawn to the speculation about the possibility of change in the leadership.

Asked whether he was aware of the charges of corruption and favouritism levelled against the Chief Minister in the Assembly recently. Mr. Barooah replied in the negative. he said if any specific allegations were made against anybody, the Congress working Committee had constituted a three-man committee consisting of Mr. H.R. Gokhale, Union Law Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, Union Finance Minister and Mr. Swaran Singh, Defence Minister, to go into such charges.

## Congress to Seek Mandate on Socialism

Bangalore, March 11: The Congress president, Mr. D.K. Barooah, said here today that in the next Parliamentary elections his party would seek a mandate from the people for the establishment of socialism in the country.

Addressing the president and secretaries of the District Congress Committee at the Congress exhibition grounds, he said once the mandate was given to the Congress, "we can go for full blast to establish socialism in the country."

# A story in every strand

**Pashm is inspired by a deep curiosity to understand the origins of pashmina and the life of nomadic communities**

**Priyamedha Dutta**

Bengaluru-based designer Geethica Naidu's debut collection, Pashm, is an ode to the breathtaking landscapes and rich nomadic heritage of Ladakh. The use of pashmina offers a glimpse into the rich, traditional craftsmanship of the region.

The collection was inspired by the uniqueness of the fibre and a deep curiosity to understand Pashmina's origins and the life of nomadic communities. It was created to honour their way of life and bring their story to the forefront through design.

Pashm includes trench coats, long vest dresses, pleated skirts and fitted blazer jackets, with a colour palette with dominant shades of brown, in keeping with the undyed natural hues of pashmina wool.

Speaking to Geethica from her studio AME in Mathikere in Bengaluru, feels like an extension of her collection, from walls displaying photographs of her nomadic journey to a loom centrepiece, the studio is where the visitors can get a glimpse of the nomadic life of Ladakh as well as her collection.

Elaborating on the collection, Geethica traced the fascinating journey of pashmina – from the high-altitude landscapes of Leh to her studio in Bengaluru.

**Grand strand**

The story of pashmina, starts from the mighty Himalayas, amidst the rugged terrains of Kharnak, 1400 feet above sea level. Here, a small community of nomadic herders have been tending to the rare and unique Changthangi goats for generations, apart from their flocks of sheep and yak.

In the extreme cold of Himalayan winters, the Changthangi goats grow a warm undercoat – a soft protective layer that sustains them through the harshest months. "It is this protective layer that becomes the finest cashmere," says Geethica.

At the onset of summer, the inner undercoat is carefully combed and harvested by nomads, relieving the animals of their winter growth.

"This whole process is testament of a mutual bond between herders and their flock; the herders care for the animals, who in turn provide them with their wool."

Once the fibre is collected, it is meticulously cleaned of any debris or stray hair, ensuring that only the finest wool remains.

However, what was once a manual process using age-old methods, has been replaced by technological advancements.

"Today, the raw wool travels down to processing units in Srinagar, where machines make the cleaning process less laborious. One can typically harvest about 300-400 grams of wool from a single Changthangi goat, but once processed, what remains is just about 60 grams of soft wool. This is what makes pashmina extremely rare and expensive."

After cleaning, the wool then finds its way to artisans, where it is painstakingly separated into fine strands. Traditionally, wool is later shifted for dyeing in natural colours. "For Pashm, each piece is crafted in undyed natural hues that are symbolic of our style and resonate with today's global wardrobe."

**Rare luxury**

However, pashmina, which is synonymous with luxury in the Western world, is on the brink of extinction.

"Now that city life beckons, we see many nomads leaving their ancestral homes and moving there. Their needs have changed; they want their children to get an education and find a job in the city."

Hence, what is left are the older generation, struggling to keep the craft alive. "It might not vanish immediately, but in the near future it will happen. Even if people continue to rear these goats in Leh, the altitude makes a lot of difference, as it affects the fibre quality. Ladakh has the harshest winter which creates the softest fibre."

"One thing we can do as designers is bring in awareness through our products; the consumer must know these stories in order for the craft to survive. For this collection, we sourced wool directly from nomads as they hardly get paid enough for this labour-intensive process," says Geethica.

Each piece in Pashm is a reflection of Geethica's travels in Leh. "When I envisioned this collection, I did not want to rely on just books and research, so we decided to travel up there. The biggest challenge was the altitude and getting in touch with the nomads. We were lucky enough to be graciously accepted into their community and the time I spent with these families is mirrored in my collection."

"The most beautiful part of Pashm is that what started as a textile recce became more of a spiritual journey on the oral histories of nomadic life. These are the stories that need to be shared outside the Valley; only then we can help preserve this ancient craft."

*Pashm is currently available at AME Design Studio, Mathikere. Prices start from ₹1 lakh.*

**A different pace** A lot goes on behind the scenes before a pashmina is ready to be donned. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Sharp edge of rhyme

**Abhilekh Baruah**

The Department of Communication Studies at Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru, recently hosted the third edition of Discourses. While the nomenclature of the conference has been the same for the first and third editions, its second edition was titled Jacaranda Tales, and was an international film festival on climate resilience, in collaboration with Bangalore Film Society & Bengaluru-based Kriti Film Club.

Based on the theme of poetry and resistance, the conference hosted speakers who would usher in the required gravitas to the event. Day one saw rapper and songwriter Arivarasu Kalainesan from Tamil Nadu (popularly known as Arivu), Mangalorean poet and activist Ralph Nazareth, Tibetan activist and writer, Tenzin Tsundue address the audience.

The second day, saw Kala Krishnan, a freelance journalist and a professor at the institute as well as poet, scholar and translator Mani Rao, both from Bengaluru, join vocal artiste and multi-award winner, Suman Sridhar from Mumbai, on the stage.

Sharon Lopez, HOD of Communication Studies, explaining the idea behind the conference said, "Discourses began when a young undergraduate research student wanted to work on Gauri Lankesh and on the poetry and writings that emanated following her murder. The passion and indignation that she and her peers felt, were too intense to remain cocooned within the confines of a classroom and before we knew it, Discourses was born."

**Power packed** Rapper Arivu with activists Tenzin Tsundue and Suman Sridhar (below) were at Discourses 25. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She also shed light on the curation of the guest list. "We look for and identify diverse artistes and scholars who are adding their voice to the area that we have selected for deliberations".

Discourses '25 saw the intersection of poetry and resistance, which was elaborated through engagement with current political and ecological spheres while challenging form, dialogue and time. The dignitaries, with their own lived experiences and ideas of resistance, provided insight during the two-day conference.

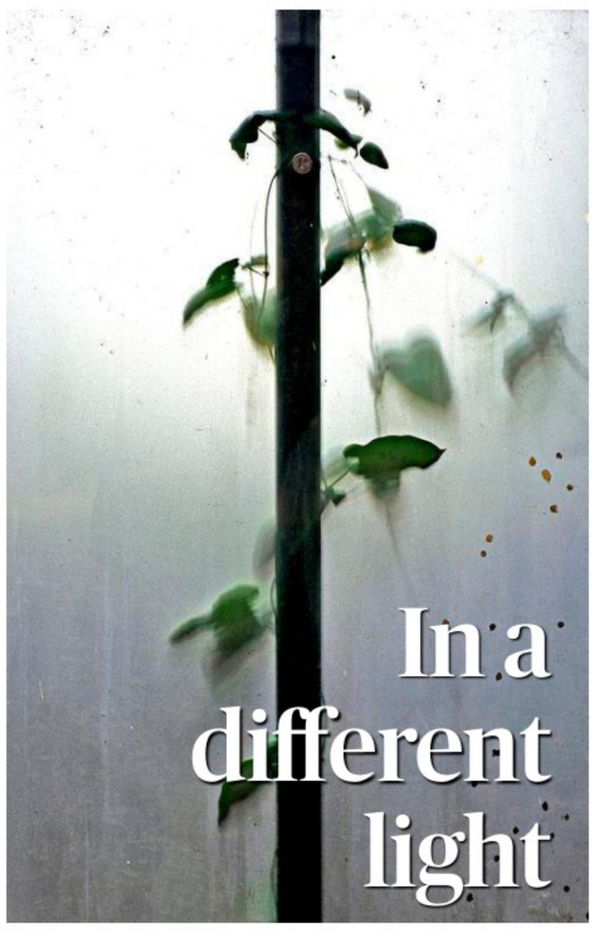
Arivu pointed out how the caste-culture mindset is veiled with entertainment's cheat code. "Entertainment takes only the glorious parts; it doesn't address life in its entirety. For example, portrayals of Bengaluru show an advanced and aesthetic infrastructure rather than its slums."

"I am not against the idea of entertainment, but we have to reconsider its true meaning," he added, pointing out the significance of education.

Arivu also conveyed that through his theme of rap, he wants to spread the message of freedom and self-realization, "I chose rap, which is an African American genre of music for resistance. When we dig deep into our own literature, there are so many rap flows in Tamil as well. Rap is just a form and was named as such, but it existed in our world much before that."

Tenzin Tsundue, who writes about his lived experiences as a Tibetan refugee, highlighted his take. "Poetry for me is an extension of my self, and I would like to be understood in that way," he said, adding, "I am not using my poetry to make a statement. For me, it is my true self. I can't force myself to write a poem on a certain subject. It has to come on its own."

He shed light on how he had to fight the lack of awareness about Tibet in India, "When Indian youth do not know what lies across the Himalayas, they will not know how to protect it; that is the weakest link in India's security."




**Shadow play** Vivek Mathew and an image from his solo show. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Ruth Dhanaraj**

We tend to take shadows for granted – they are constantly underfoot, unobtrusive and a reminder of the opaque things in life, ourselves included. With Lyrical Shadows, Bengaluru-based photographer Vivek Mathew has captured everyday instances where the fall of light has been arrested in ways and places we all would have seen and ignored.

Vivek Mathew says Lyrical Shadows celebrates the 20-year anniversary of his chosen career as a photographer. "This year marks two decades since I became a professional photographer, so I decided to put together a show on the shadows that I've shot during this time."

As many as 24 images depict Vivek's observation of the mundane – the play of light and shadow on bannisters and roadside scaffolding, condensation on windowpanes and the streets at night – and draws the viewers' glance to a beauty and detail that many fail to notice.

About his fascination with shadows, Vivek says, "They have been a constant part of my journey of capturing images; I believe they add glamour to a photograph. Without shadows a photo becomes boring," and adds that they featured in his previous shows as well.

"I always compare shadows to an opera singer's outro (finale) which is the highlight of a concert. An image sans shadows is incomplete."

At the same time, Vivek says he goes by instinct, nudged by his subconscious. "I don't plan my photos that way," he says. And while he may not plan his work, he believes patience is required when creating anything of enduring value whether it is building a career or producing music. "In today's world, everyone is pursuing quick fame, quick money – a patience to grow and evolve is severely lacking. It is important to create art that takes time," he says, citing the likes of Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash, whose music has been around for decades.

Like most artists, Vivek presents his works as untitled creations, leaving it to the viewers to decide what they make of it. "I don't want to impose my thoughts on to the viewers, that's long been my philosophy, especially as pictures speak a thousand words. What one sees as a studio can be seen as an office by another; images speak differently to different people."

*Lyrical Shadows, a solo show by Vivek Mathew is on display at iArt Gallery, Lavelle Road till March 22, 2025*

## CITYBEATS

### Food fiesta

**MARCH 15, 16**

Join *The Carnival of Rang*, an open-air Holi celebration complete with *dhol*, live performances and a vibrant festive atmosphere. Enjoy dishes such as dhai bhalle balle, masala chuski pop and more with a range of chutneys. Also available are festive drinks such as rosey thandai and pichkari punch. *At The Yard, Whitefield. Menu is priced at ₹1500 for two.*

### Musical symphony

**MARCH 16**

SEPAI presents Iman Sandhya (Banglar Gaane Raag - Rup), by Hindustani singer Iman Das, also a National awardee. Iman will present a selection of compositions with discussions on their historical and musical significance and the confluence of classical and semi-classical traditions of Bengali music. *At Samarthanam Arts Centre, HSR Layout. From 6.30pm. Tickets on BookMyshow.*

### Colourful crunch

**ONGOING**

Celebrate Holi with Freshmenu's exclusive range of festive cookies, which will be available till March 25. Inspired by traditional Indian flavours, the cookies are handcrafted and come in the flavours of kesar badam, malai kulfi shortbread and thandai holi among other innovative combinations.
*Can be ordered on Swiggy, Zomato, Magicpin, Ola and Paytm.*

# 'Come up with proposals for release of CMIDP funds'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

With ₹8,000 crore set to be disbursed under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) to legislators across the State for development works during the next fiscal, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is learnt to have told party colleagues to come up with proposals for release of funds.

The Congress is also gearing up to celebrate two years of its rule in Karnataka, details of which are being worked out.

The Chief Minister, during the Congress Legislature Party meeting here on Monday, told members that the fund would be disbursed taking into consideration the requirements of the constituencies.

Sources said that though the quantum of funding for each constituency depended on the need for infrastructure development, legislators had been asked to seek funds under various programmes that needed to be implemented in their constituencies.

The CMIDP is being seen in political circles as a hedge by Mr. Siddaramaiah to keep the Congress flock together and also to keep a grip on the legislators amid his shadow boxing with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the leadership tussle.

The fund is being seen as a move to mollify party legislators, who have been incensed for nearly two years over lack of funds to undertake infrastructure development works with most of the money being diverted to fund the five guarantees.

At the CLP, district incharge Ministers were instructed to hold meetings at the district-level and interact with party workers.

# Rescue teams digging up two more spots in tunnel

TBM operator Gurpreet Singh's body sent back to home in Punjab after post-mortem; ex gratia of ₹25 lakh to be handed over to his family; two sniffer dogs specialised in tracing cadavers at work

**B. Chandrashekhar**
HYDERABAD

Rescue teams engaged in tracing the people trapped under debris in the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel intensified their efforts on Monday morning by taking up digging at two more points after successfully extricating one body on Sunday.

A total of eight people were trapped in the tunnel in Nagarkurnool of Telangana since February 22.

The rescue teams are hopeful that they can find two more people as the two new points – D1 and D3 – were identified by two sniffer dogs from Kerala which are specialised in tracing cadavers, and also by the ground probing radar (GPR) scanning by experts from the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).

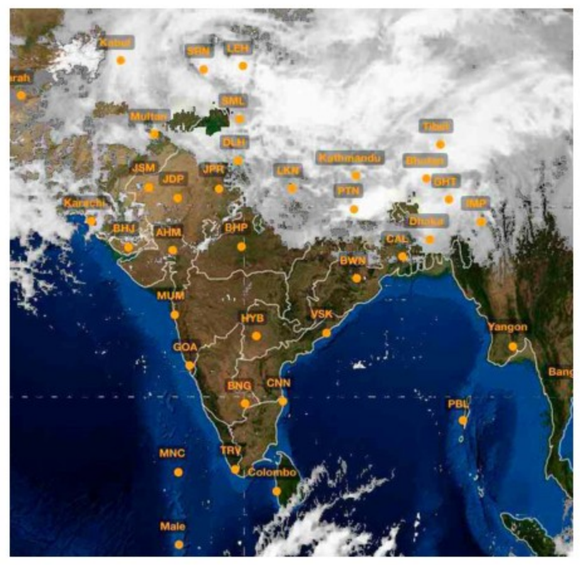
**Pushing through:** Rescue team taking an equipment towards the SLBC tunnel in Nagarkurnool on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A robot along with surveillance material including a camera, modules and tools is expected to be operational from today to speed up the efforts as the operation in the last 100 metres of the tunnel, covered with three to nine metres deep mud, is highly risky, official sources said.

The recovered body of Gurpreet Singh, operator of the tunnel boring machine (TBM), was sent in a hearse van to his native place in Punjab after identification and post-mortem in Nagarkurnool. A team of police and revenue officials accompanying the body was given a cheque for ₹25 lakh to be handed over to Singh's family. The amount is an ex gratia payment by the State government in addition to an insurance benefit by the employer, Robbins Company.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Gujarat, west Rajasthan and Vidarbha. Hot and humid weather likely to prevail over Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 32.5 | 19.0 | Kozhikode | — | 36.2 | 27.6 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 40.4 | 20.8 | Kurnool | — | 36.8 | 22.4 |
| Aizawl | — | 31.2 | 10.8 | Lucknow | — | 32.5 | 17.0 |
| Allahabad | — | 34.4 | 14.6 | Madurai | — | 37.0 | 22.5 |
| Bengaluru | — | 31.5 | 18.1 | Mangaluru | — | 35.4 | 25.0 |
| Bhopal | — | 35.4 | 21.3 | Mumbai | — | 37.2 | 21.6 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 33.8 | 20.8 | Mysuru | — | 37.0 | 18.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 29.9 | 17.4 | New Delhi | — | 32.6 | 15.2 |
| Chennai | — | 33.0 | 25.3 | Patna | — | 31.1 | 19.5 |
| Coimbatore | — | 34.0 | 21.2 | Port Blair | — | 31.5 | 27.2 |
| Dehradun | — | 29.0 | 13.6 | Puducherry | — | 32.4 | 22.6 |
| Gangtok | — | 18.4 | 9.1 | Pune | — | 39.6 | 21.2 |
| Goa | — | 36.0 | 25.0 | Raipur | — | 36.5 | 22.5 |
| Guwahati | — | 32.0 | 14.5 | Ranchi | — | 32.8 | 16.6 |
| Hubballi | — | 37.0 | 21.0 | Shillong | — | 21.7 | 11.5 |
| Hyderabad | — | 32.6 | 21.1 | Shimla | — | 23.0 | 12.0 |
| Imphal | — | 28.5 | 16.5 | Srinagar | — | 11.0 | 8.4 |
| Jaipur | — | 34.6 | 19.7 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 34.5 | 22.0 |
| Kochi | — | 34.0 | 26.8 | Tiruchi | — | 35.1 | 22.0 |
| Kohima | — | 21.7 | 10.0 | Vijayawada | — | 33.6 | 23.9 |
| Kolkata | — | 34.4 | 22.6 | Visakhapatnam | — | 32.8 | 24.7 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | —* | 114 | 32 | 265 | 186 | |
| Bengaluru | 9 | 11 | 30 | 42 | 155 | |
| Chennai | 18 | 32 | 40 | 36 | 62 | |
| Delhi | 20 | 128 | 68 | 243 | 268 | |
| Hyderabad | 5 | 104 | 7 | 160 | 107 | |
| Kolkata | 4 | 18 | 21 | 143 | 122 | |
| Lucknow | 18 | 39 | 47 | 206 | 178 | |
| Mumbai | —* | 48 | 57 | 186 | 190 | |
| Pune | 25 | 146 | 58 | 235 | 162 | |
| Visakhapatnam | 10 | 35 | 23 | 57 | 93 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 289 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

**Air Quality Code:** Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Congress MPs raise issue of ASHAs in LS

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Congress MPs on Monday raised the issue of proper remuneration and social security cover for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) in Kerala.

Raising the matter during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha, the MPs said the "blame game" between the Centre and the Kerala government is not helping the volunteers.

# Natesh case: ED's appeal against verdict admitted

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Monday admitted an appeal filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) challenging a single judge's order of declaring "unwarranted, illegal, and abuse of process of law" the actions of ED in searching the residence D.B. Natesh, a former Commissioner of the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), summoning him and recording of his statement.

Meanwhile, the Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjari and Justice M.I. Arun said that it cannot consider the ED's plea for interim orders - either for stay of the single judge's January 27 verdict or not to treat single judge's judgment as a precedent in other cases - as the ED has not filed application seeking such interim orders.

However, the Bench permitted the Additional Solicitors General of India S.V. Raju and K. Arvind Kamath to file an application seeking interim order along

with the instances in which the courts have interfered with the ED's investigations in other cases citing the single judge's verdict in Mr. Natesh's case.

Meanwhile, senior advocate Dushyant Dave, representing Mr. Natesh, gave an undertaking to the court that Mr. Natesh would not press the liberty given to him by the single judge to to prosecute – under Section 62 [punishment for vexatious search] of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 – the officer concerned of the ED before the appropriate forum for conducing search at his residence.

Earlier, pointing out to the single judge observation that "whether the search and seizure [by ED against Mr. Natesh] is vexatious or not is a matter of trial," it told the Additional Solicitors General of India that this observation appears to be contrary to the other findings in the single judge's order.

The Bench adjourned further hearing on the appeal till April 8 giving liberty to file application seeking interim order.

The ED had acted against Mr. Natesh in connection with his role in the case of alleged illegal allotment of 14 sites to Parvathi, wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and many other sites to several influential persons and real estate agents etc.

**PSPCL** Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. office: PSEB head office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. UP0109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 12/GC/TS/PSPCL/2024-25 | Dated : 07.03.2025

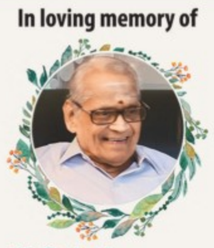
Dy. CE/Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites open e-Tender for outsourcing of Augmentation of Power Transformers related works on partial turnkey mode under RDSS Scheme under Grid Construction Division Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle Ludhiana.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refere to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 07.03.2025 (01:00 PM onwards).
Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C 166/25 76155/12/3995/2023/42402

**ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.**
Vidyut Nilayam, Corporate Office, ITI College Road, Vijayawada-520008.
Tender Notice No: CGM/PROJ/VJA/RfS/PM KUSUM - FLS/03/2024-25
Bids through www.apeprocurement.gov.in are invited from eligible bidders for "IMPLEMENTATION OF FEEDER LEVEL SOLARISATION (FLS) UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN URJA SURAKSHA EVAM UTHAAN MAHABHIYAAN (PM KUSUM) LAUNCHED BY MNRE, GOI, UNDER COMPONENT C FOR DEVELOPMENT OF 355.5 MW GRID CONNECTED SOLAR POWER PLANTS FOR 503 No OF 11KV AGL FEEDERS FOR SOLARIZATION OF 1,68,899 Nos OF PUMP SETS IN THE JURISDICTION OF APCPDCL".
The Tender information will be made available in AP E-procurement Portal from 11.03.2025, 18:00 Hrs, Last date for Bid submission online is 25.03.2025, 16:00 Hrs.
Sd/- Chief General Manager/Projects, APCPDCL, Vijayawada
DIPR 3576PP/CL, Dt.10.03.2025 Email: cgmproj.cpdcl@apcpdcl.in

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF MPP & POWER
GLOBAL INVITATION OF BIDS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
CORRIGENDUM OF NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS
In partial modification of Notice Inviting Proposals (NIP) for implementation of 20 HEPs on BOOT Basis published on07.02.2025,which is also uploaded in the Directorate of Energy website i.e. https://doehimachal.nic.in, it is to inform that the last date of sale of Bid Documents, last date of submission of Bids and the date of opening of Bids are hereby extended as under :-
Last date for sale of Bid Documents : 20.03.2025 upto 1700 Hours
Tentative date of Pre-Bid Conference : 25.03.2025
Last date of submission of Bids : 01.04.2025 upto 1300 Hours (IST)
Date of opening of Bids : 01.04.2025 at 1500 Hours (IST) onwards
Note:-If the Last date for submission of Bids or the date of opening of bids happens to be a holiday declared by the Government of Himachal Pradesh in Shimla, the Bids will be submitted and opened on the next working day in the same order and at the same time.
The other terms & conditions of earlier published Notice Inviting Proposalson 07.02.2025 shall remain the same.
For & on behalf of the Governor of HP
-Sd-
Director (Energy),
Directorate of Energy, Govt. of HP,
Tel. +91-177-2673552, Fax +91-1772673553
e-mail:ceenergy09@gmail.com
HP / 1222/2024-2025

**Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd**
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Nigam Bhavan, 1st floor, sector-16
Gandhinagar-382016
Gujarat Tourism
TENDER NOTICE
The tender is invited by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. (TCGL), for the appointment of agency/Contractor for "Development of Yatri Nivas at Ayodhya Uttar Pradesh". Estimated Cost of the Project Rs. 80.25 Cr + GST. The interested bidders/agencies may download the tender document form the website: https://www.tender.nprocure.com/ from 18/03/2025 onwards. Tender may also be referred on www.gujarattourism.com.
Managing Director of TCGL reserves the right to reject or accept any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
Managing Director

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**
DEATH

In loving memory of

**K Srinivasan**
Passed away peacefully on 10th March 2025 at Bangalore. He was 92 years old.
He is survived by his wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.
He was the life of the party. We will miss him and always celebrate his life.

With profound grief we inform the sad demise of
**Dr. J SETHURAMAN**
Retd. Professor, American College, Madurai on 2nd March 2025 at 7.45 am in New Delhi.
Dasasthu will be held on Tuesday, 11th March 2025, from 9 am to 12 pm, at C-10 A, DDA-Flats, Munirka, New Delhi -110067.
The 13th day observations will be held on March 14th from 9 am - 12 pm.
He is survived by his
Wife: Nirmala Sethuraman,
Children: Sowmya and Swaminathan,
Son-in-law: Ramakrishnan,
Daughter-in-law: Radhika
Grandson: Bhavesh Karthik.
Ph: 9486554796

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

**CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CIRCLE-II, CONSTRUCTION WING, FIRST FLOOR, 'A'- BLOCK, 'E'- ROAD,KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107
Short e -TENDER NOTICE
Dated :10.03.2025
E-tenders are invited from the Government registered and experienced contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, Construction Wing, First Floor, 'A' -Block, CMDA, 'E'-Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 107, under Two cover system for the work of **"Construction of MTC Bus Stand at Avadi, Chennai".**

| | |
|---|---|
| Short e -tender Notice No. | 24/2024-25 dated.10.03.2025. |
| Last date & Time of receipt of tender through online | 25.03.2025 at 3.00 P.M |
| Downloading the tender document by Free of Cost. | From 11.03.2025 to 25.03.2025 upto 3.00 pm |
| For further details visit website | http://tntenders.gov.in |

DIPR/946/TENDER/2025
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-II, Circle-II, CW, CMDA, Ch-107

**University Of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore**
Estate Office, GKVK, Bengaluru-560 065.
No. EO/TN/17/2024-25 Date: 07.03.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp Portal only)
The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW1, KW2 & KW3 from the registered KPWD/PWD/Contractors for the works Sl. No.1 to 5. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The cost of tender document is as per KPP Portal. The EMD has to be paid in the KPP Portal using e-Procurement payment modes.
The above works are under Two Cover system. The details for two cover system is to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document.
The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading is **15.3.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.** The Technical Bid will be opened on **17.3.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** The Financial Bid will be opened on **20.3.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** For more details please contact KPPP Portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000/ 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, **Phone No.080-23332765.**
Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER
DIPR/CP/RO5564/AAPL/2024-25

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**
Office of the Senior Assistant Director, Education, Head Office, BBMP, N. R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.
No.:SAD(E)/PR/3051/2024-25 Date:10.03.2025
INVITATION FOR QUOTATION
The Senior Assistant Director (Education) has invited Rate Quotations to obtain the current market rates from the reputed suppliers/shopkeepers for the supply of below mentioned uniforms to the students studying in the kindergarten schools under the jurisdiction of the BBMP as per the following specifications for the year 2025-26.

| Boys / Royal Blue Half Pant | |
|---|---|
| **Polyester/Viscore** | |
| Count | 2/3 Warp |
| | 15 Weft |
| Blend | 70% Polyester |
| | 30% Viscore |
| Construction | Warp - 62 |
| | Weft-44 |
| GSM | 175 |
| Washing fastner | 3-4 |
| Light fastner | 3-4 |
| **Boys/Girls Shirt Top** | |
| Count | Warp - 2/80 |
| | Weft-2/80 |
| Blend | 67% Polyester |
| | 33% Viscore |
| Construction | Warp-100 |
| | Weft-76 |
| GSM | 108 |
| Washing fastner | 3-4 |
| Light fastner | 3-4 |
| **Girls Checks Red Skirt** | |
| **100% Polyester** | |
| Count | 80D Warp |
| | 2/60 Psf Weft |
| Construction | Warp-144 |
| | Weft-60 |
| GSM | 108 |
| Washing fastner | 3-4 |
| Light fastner | 3-4 |

All Parameters 10% Plus or Minus

**1)** The Quotations should be inclusive of freight charges and GST. **2)** The last date for submission of sealed envelopes is **12.03.2025 by 5:00 PM** and the sealed envelope will be opened on the same day at **5:00 PM**.
Interested parties may participate. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director(Education).

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANCHAYAT RAJ
ENGINEERING PROJECT DIVISION KALABURAGI
No : EE/RDPRE/PD/KLB/KKRDB /TS/TND/2024-25/1107 Date :06/ 03 /2025
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement TwoCover System)
1) Name of work: Construction of Road and CDs from Narayanpur Main Road (R.K.N Tanda) to Nallagunda Tanda via Hanuman Mandirin Hunasagi Taluka Yadgir District (YAD2415121342) Macro ((SCP)) for the year 2024-25 Indent No. KRRDA/ 2024-25 /RD/WORK_INDENT-200 2) Head of account: KKRDB for the 2024-25 3) Amount put to tender: Indent No.200 RS. 2,09,37,237.29 4) Class of Contractor Class-II& above 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents 06-03-2025 to 17-03-2025 upto 4.00 pm 6) Tender Form Fee: As per Eprocurement Norms 7) E.M.D. Fee: Indent No.200 Rs. 3,14,500.00 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: 06-03-2025 to 17-03-2025 upto 4.00 pm 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: 18-03-2025 After 4.00 pm 10) Financial Bid openingDate: 21-03-2025 After 11.00 pm 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, R.D. P.R.E. Project Division Rajapur Road Kalaburagi 12) Website Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
DIP/YDG/557/KSMC&A/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer
R.D. P.R.E. Project Division Kalaburagi

## Miles to go

### The Union Government finally attempts change in Manipur, but faces hurdles

After months of trying to wade through an ethnic crisis by maintaining the status quo, the Union government finally got its act together and removed the N. Biren Singh-led government in Manipur from power and imposed President's Rule, hoping that the change would be the harbinger of good tidings. The fact that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party could not manage to find a replacement for its outgoing leader reflected not just on the internal divisions within the party but also on the preponderance of the ethnic divide in the State. Considering this, the imposition of President's Rule seemed to be a viable way of bringing back normalcy in a State suffering badly from ethnic strife. After the imposition of President's Rule, the government has sought to gradually seize control over instruments of violence that seemed to reign with impunity in the last two years. It did so by giving a deadline to non-State groups to give up weapons that they had acquired from constabularies. It has tried to ensure free movement between the hill and valley districts by removing the blockades set up by these groups on highways in the State. These steps have not gone down smoothly. Only a portion – nearly a third – of the 3,000-odd weapons that are still missing have been returned, with the bulk of the missing weapons being those that were stolen in and around the Imphal Valley. The attempts made by the central armed police forces to enforce the free movement of all vehicles in the hill district of Kangpokpi resulted in violence with one killed and more than 40 people injured.

A civil society organisation claiming to represent the Kuki-Zo community has warned against the moves for the free movement of people by demanding Union Territory status or a separate arrangement for the Kuki-Zo areas as a precondition. This is a dangerous ploy as any such move will only deepen the ethnic strife and will also be resisted by the Naga communities, living in the hill districts of the State. The government must continue to seek talks with representatives of both communities while sternly rejecting any threat of violence and isolating those making impossible demands in order for peace to be restored. Steps need to be intensified to recover the remaining missing weapons and to thwart any entity seeking to take the law into its own hands. The government must put out the compelling message that only the State has the legitimate claim over arms, which must resonate across the hills and the valley. But this cannot be a step that is limited to the Governor. The Centre, more specifically, the Union Home Ministry and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, must appeal directly to the communities for a restoration of peace, and for dialogue to help the displaced return to their homes. Data show that Manipur has suffered more than any State due to the recent inflation and economic woes in the country and it would take yeoman steps by the senior leadership of the Union Government to bring back normalcy.

## Limited-overs form

### India's performance in the shorter formats of cricket is outstanding

India's latest triumph in the ICC Champions Trophy carried an air of inevitability. In Sunday's final, they overcame a gritty New Zealand side by four wickets with an over to spare. As fireworks lit up the Dubai sky and the 252-run target was chased down, the victory reaffirmed India's dominance in white ball cricket. Across 24 ICC tournament matches – including the 2023 ODI World Cup, the 2024 T20 World Cup, and the Champions Trophy – Rohit Sharma's men have secured 23 wins, an astounding 95.83% success rate. Stationed in Dubai for three weeks due to the Indian government's refusal to allow play in Pakistan, the official host, India benefited from a fixed venue and minimal travel fatigue. However, their success was not merely circumstantial – they executed their plans with precision. Group stage wins against Bangladesh, Pakistan, and New Zealand, followed by a semifinal triumph over Australia, set the stage for the final against the Black Caps. Despite concerns about New Zealand's history of upsetting India – most notably in the 2019 World Cup semifinal – the Men in Blue handled the challenge adeptly.

On a sluggish pitch, India's strategy of fielding four spinners proved decisive. Varun Chakaravarthy, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, and Kuldeep Yadav stifled New Zealand's scoring, though Mitchell Santner's team still managed a competitive 251 for seven. In a high-stakes final, scoreboard pressure is always a factor, but Rohit's composed 76 set the tone, and India's deep batting line-up ensured a comfortable finish. While India has faced setbacks in Test cricket, including losses to New Zealand at home and Australia away, their limited-overs form remains formidable. The squad's depth is evident – Rishabh Pant was left out of the playing XI, while talents such as Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan did not even make the squad. Contributions from Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, and Hardik Pandya underscored the collective effort, while Mohammed Shami's return offset the absence of the injured Jasprit Bumrah. Virat Kohli's consistency and Rohit's leadership suggest that retirement is not imminent for either stalwart, but selectors must look ahead to the 2027 ODI World Cup. Honest assessments and strategic planning will be crucial to ensuring India's sustained dominance in the years to come.

# The Indian university and the search for a V-C

**B. Ashok**

is the Vice-Chancellor of Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala

There have been reservations expressed from various quarters on the Draft University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025, that have been published for discussion.

The main reservations pertain to the regulations that indicate the method of appointment of Vice-Chancellors and the broadening of experience prescribed. Both need to be distinguished from the point of view of dynamic elements in a fast-changing federal polity as well as the legal precedents that arise from a catena of decisions by the Supreme Court of India. This article examines both issues in context.

**A lesser role for the State executive**

First, it must be noted that the Court has considerably reduced the role of the State executive in the selection of Vice-Chancellors (V-C) of State-funded universities. Many States continue to have their nominees in the search-cum-selection committees under such provisions in the State statutes. The Court has consistently and categorically ruled that the State executive should have no role either with the process or the recommendation leading to the appointment to be made by the Chancellor. This has been necessitated by the co-validity of the UGC's 2018 regulations (which mandated only its representative in the selection committee) leading to interpretations by States that the rest of the composition could continue as per the State legislations.

In *Gambhirdan K. Gadhvi vs The State Of Gujarat* (2019), *Sonali Chakravarti Banerjee* (2022), *Professor (Dr.) Sreejith P.S vs Dr. Rajasree M.S.* (2022) and *Dr. Premachandran Keezhoth and Anr. vs The Chancellor Kannur University and Ors.* (2023), the Court has enunciated that members of the State executive shall not be members of the search-cum-selection committee and evidence of such influence would invalidate the process, ab initio void, irrespective of whether the appointee was qualified or not. The resultant draft regulations of 2025 limit the search-cum-selection committee to highly qualified persons who have held the office of V-C or equivalent, to be nominated by the Chancellor of the university, the executive body of the university and the UGC. The Statutes of the Central Universities also reveal a similar pattern – where the nominees of the Visitor of the University and the UGC, and not the officers or representatives of the central executive, conduct the selection. Nevertheless, the State executives have a point that State universities are largely a product of statute of the State Legislatures and that a majority of their funds and efforts have been provided by the State executive. Their mandate also involves regional development and provincial priorities in research and advancement. They have to necessarily feed the State innovation ecosystem and work in tandem with the government scientific and development establishment. The central universities enrol far too low to meet requirements while private universities could be priced out of the reach of many.

> The UGC's draft regulations reflect the view that there needs to be a reinvention of university governance – an idea that the larger university community must support

**Options to consider**

In this context, there are two ways to look at the difficulties stated.

Alternatively, the representative of the university executive can be a consensus candidate who is informally approved by the State executive which is amply represented in the university executive. From the present judicial precedent, it cannot be a government officer or a person who enjoys the direct patronage of the government. A suitably independent and former eminent academic who is also acceptable to the government could well be nominated by the University executive.

However, it is clear that in the light of the Kannur University case and the Sreejith case of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University that the powers to consider the short-listing and recommendation of a name or a re-appointment will have to remain away from the State or central executive which is important in preserving the requisite neutrality and impartiality required of the high office of the V-C.

A second option could be – should the UGC consider it to be appropriate - to allow the State executive to nominate one member to the search-cum-selection committee in addition to the member representing the University executive. In the process of making the search/selection, political personalities tend to have the view that the nominees would echo their master's voice.

In the experience of this writer, this is not the case and the august members tend to air sufficiently independent and reasoned views. They do not parrot extraneous views that are unsupported by the record. Here again, the nominee could be stipulated to be a former V-C or equivalent and not enjoying a position of patronage as required of advisers serving the Union Public Service Commission. Either way, it should not be too difficult to factor in the concerns of the State executives and make the process wholesome and well-participated from the State's perspective. It is best to avoid a collision course.

The second question which involves the indication to broaden the field of experience of prospective V-Cs to academically eminent persons who are experienced with public policy, government, the public sector and private sector industry, need not raise eyebrows. It was a norm followed in the past which took second place between 2010 and 2018 when there was a 'scriptural reading' of the 2010 UGC regulations. Many courts, most notably the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, took restrictive views of the prescribed qualification, limiting it to 10 years of professorship or even teaching experience.

**The outlook must change**

Post-tertiary education, highly cited and indexed publications, a notable articulation of visionary insights, high communication skills, an ability to network and team work, presentability, dynamism and proof of diverse intellectual achievements, and even sporting traits, are well-established international norms that are looked into in the search for V-Cs. Various men and women of eminence have graced the high academic office, reflecting their wealth of experience gained in parliaments, from public diplomacy, industry, international organisations, public service, non-university institutional research, work in the voluntary sector, from creative writing, the performing arts, music and even sport in India and abroad.

Excellence and eminence are not restricted to academic departments and colleges any more. Restricting the field of choosing a V-C to the teaching or research professions alone would not be appropriate in a context of rapid change and the dire need to reinvent the Indian university. Pulling down stereotyped shibboleths and rebuilding with considerable re-imagination call for original thinking, critical analysis, advocacy, networking and team-working skills. As researcher Amanda Goodall (author of *Socrates in the Boardroom*) argued, it is not enough that a V-C is modelled after Socrates, mostly absorbed in deep thought. The days of narcissistic, isolated glory of the university enterprise is long over. The winning university of tomorrow needs to be innovative and business-like as well as deeply philosophical. This calls for considerably liberal gateways for leadership positions. The UGC has rightly attempted it, true to purpose, and the same needs the support of the university community now.

*The views expressed are personal*

# An India-U.S. trade agreement and the test of WTO laws

**Prabhash Ranjan**

is Professor and Director, Centre for International Investment and Trade Laws, Jindal Global Law School

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brief working visit to the United States, on February 13, 2025, New Delhi and Washington agreed to negotiate the first stage of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by the fall of 2025. While economists are busy calculating tariffs and trade volumes, it is essential to examine this development through the lens of international trade law. A significant portion of international trade law is codified in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and governed by the World Trade Organization (WTO). Since both the U.S. and India are members of the WTO, their bilateral trade dealings must align with the standards set by WTO law. This makes the proposed BTA between the two countries particularly important. Currently, the scope of the BTA is unclear. The U.S.-India Joint Leaders Statement, of February 13, only references a multi-sector BTA without providing specific details about its coverage. It is important to note that this agreement is not labelled as a free trade agreement (FTA). However, the terminology is less significant than the actual content of the agreement.

**Free trade agreements**

The WTO system operates on the most favoured nation (MFN) principle, which prohibits discrimination between trading partners. Therefore, an FTA that grants preferential access to certain countries violates the MFN rule, although countries can still establish FTAs under specific conditions.

One of these conditions, outlined in Article XXIV.8(b) of the GATT, requires member countries to eliminate customs duties and other trade barriers on "substantially all the trade" within the FTA. Although the term "substantially all the trade" is not defined in the agreement, it is understood that the FTA should encompass a very high percentage of trade between the member countries.

> As the U.S. and India are World Trade Organization members, their bilateral trade dealings must align with the standards set by WTO law; India must not cave in to American pressure

This requirement exists because FTAs are exceptions to the MFN principle, which is a cornerstone of the multilateral trading system. Therefore, these exceptions must be tightly controlled and not permitted lightly. The proposed BTA between India and the U.S. must cover "substantially all trade" to be legally valid. It also needs to be notified to the WTO. Whether such an agreement will be economically beneficial for India is a topic of debate, with differing opinions. Legally speaking, if India and the U.S. reduce tariff rates on each other's limited products, as part of some bilateral deal, without extending similar treatment to other countries, it would violate WTO law.

**Interim agreements, enabling clause**

One possible way for India and the U.S. to establish a BTA for select products without violating WTO laws is to notify the agreement as an 'interim agreement', leading to the formation of an FTA. Since countries cannot finalise FTAs overnight, Article XXIV of GATT permits them to sign 'interim agreements' that pave the way for an eventual FTA, subject to specific conditions.

First, under Article XXIV.5 of GATT, countries can enter into an 'interim agreement' if it is necessary for forming a free trade area. Second, this 'interim agreement' must include a plan or schedule for establishing an FTA within a reasonable timeframe, which should typically not exceed 10 years.

However, India and the U.S. should only notify the proposed BTA as an 'interim agreement' if they genuinely intend to sign an FTA in the future. Using the 'interim agreement' approach solely to buy time while concealing an MFN-inconsistent trade deal may be politically expedient but legally indefensible.

WTO law provides another exception to the MFN principle in the form of what is known as the 'enabling clause'. As per this arrangement, WTO countries can deviate from the MFN principle if it is meant to provide better market access to the products of developing countries. However, since the proposed India-U.S. BTA, as one gathers, will see both sides lowering tariff rates on each other's products, it possibly cannot be called an arrangement falling under the 'enabling clause'. The Joint Statement categorically talks of the U.S. welcoming India's recent measures to lower tariffs on products of interest to Washington. Thus, India seems to be providing better market access to American products, which is contrary to the spirit of a trading arrangement that would fall under the 'enabling clause'.

**Respecting WTO law**

U.S. President Donald Trump's problematic conception of 'reciprocal tariffs', whereby the U.S. will increase tariff rates to align with the tariffs that other nations impose on American goods violates the core WTO principles of MFN and special and differential treatment (S&DT). S&DT allows developing countries to offer less than full reciprocity in their tariff commitments towards developed countries. Reciprocal tariffs will also violate the U.S.'s bound tariff rate obligations – a promise not to impose tariff rates above what is committed – at the WTO. Nations such as India, which champion a rule-based trading order, need to actively push back against any dilution of core WTO principles. The proposed BTA negotiations present a crucial test for India to uphold WTO laws and not capitulate to American pressure.

*The views expressed are personal*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**India's dominance**

The Indian cricket team's triumphant victory at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, on Sunday, to claim the ICC Champions Trophy, highlights India's dominance both on and off the field. On the field, India demonstrated its superiority over the other participating nations, consistently excelling throughout the schedule. The team achieved emphatic victories, with a perfect balance in both the batting and bowling departments. Off the field too, India wielded significant influence over the tournament's scheduling. India's firm refusal to play in Pakistan led to a revised schedule that aligned with its interests. Has any major international sporting event ever been structured in such a manner?

This unprecedented scheduling shift was largely driven by viewership demographics, with Indian audiences constituting the majority of the tournament's spectators. While other teams had to travel a lot, it was just a bus ride for the Indian team. But still, this situation does not diminish the cricketing prowess of the Indian team.

**Stephen Mathews,**
Changanacherry, Kerala

Rohit Sharma's captaincy reflects an astute cricketing mind. As an individual, he is a source of inspiration to the team as he focuses on the larger picture.

**Akshit Malia,**
New Delhi

**Atrocity near Hampi**

The report, "Two women including Israeli tourist raped near Karnataka's Hampi" (March 8), where a group of five adults out stargazing was attacked, and which resulted in one of the adults drowning, is a black spot as far as general safety in India is concerned. There has to be better security as it is such incidents that will be reported in the global media. With new technology available, it should not be a problem ensuring better patrolling even at night.

**P. Vijay Kumar,**
Tiruvallur, Tamil Nadu

The fact is that there are a number of issues that affect tourism in India. There is still no assurance of a trouble-free and safe experience in many places for various reasons. Such an ugly incident will definitely affect India's standing in the tourism industry. The government should improve security for tourists.

**Thirumalai A.S.,**
Chennai

**'Crypto' moves**

By signing an executive order to establish a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and U.S. Digital Asset Stockpile, President Trump has taken a significant step towards fulfilling his electoral promise of making the U.S. the crypto capital. But he needs to understand that with more countries ushering in regulatory frameworks considering the borderless nature of cryptocurrencies, the world needs regulatory clarity and coherence.

**M. Jeyaram,**
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

# Flawed food regulations fuel the obesity crisis

**Dr. Arun Gupta**

Pediatrician, public health expert, and convenor of the Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest. He is a former member of the PM's Council on India's Nutritional Challenges

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to tackle obesity and the 2025 Economic Survey's recommendation of imposing a 'health tax' on ultra-processed foods (UPFs) to curb their consumption are both laudable. But these efforts risk being derailed by India's ambiguous, industry-friendly, and subjective food marketing regulations. In India, one in four adult men and women are obese and one in four adults are either diabetic or pre-diabetic (National Family Health Survey-5). This underlines the urgency of the problem.

Right to Information responses and official communications expose how various Ministries and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have not been able to implement the labelling or advertising regulations planned in 2017 and continue to rely on regulations that are ambiguous and subjective in nature. No wonder there are so many advertisements of UPFs, and no front-of-pack labels yet.

**Labelling and advertising**

In September 2022, the FSSAI proposed the Indian Nutrition Rating, a 'health star' labelling system modelled on Australia's not-so-successful framework, which was developed by a food industry technologist. In this system, half a star means that the food is 'least healthy' and 5 stars means that it qualifies as 'healthiest'. Right to Information responses confirm that the FSSAI relied on an IIM Ahmedabad study to justify the rating system – a study it never critically evaluated. Worse, food industry representatives dominated key stakeholder meetings and members of the scientific panel were sidelined. The whole process sided with industry, as a member of the stakeholder group pointed out. Moreover, the FSSAI ignored its own 2021 draft regulations indicating 'traffic light' colour-coded and mandatory warning labels and instead bowed down to industry lobbying.

The Indian Nutrition Rating system is flawed because the stars, at best, can mislead consumers by creating a health halo on all pre-packaged unhealthy food products. The system allows foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) and UPFs, such as biscuits, flaunt two stars on the packet when they might otherwise have four warning signals. Similarly, a soft drink that should have a high warning in sugar instead gets two stars. Corn flakes, which is is high in sugar and sodium, gets 3 stars. This means that the system allows all these foods to be some level of healthy.

Globally, warning labels that say the product is high in sugar/salt or bad fats allow consumers to know the true nature of the product and make a choice. Most of the front-of-pack labels in use today are warning labels. For instance, Chile's black 'high in' labels reduced consumption of UPFs by 24%. The fix is therefore to ensure that front-of-pack labels are notified soon and replace stars with mandatory 'high in' warnings on HFSS foods and UPFs, based on the World Health Organization's guidelines or the National Institute of Nutrition's Dietary Guideline for Indians.

India has four laws to curb misleading advertising for HFSS/UPFs but none of them is effective, according to reports and data. The National Multisectoral Action Plan, 2017, called for an amendment to these laws to include restrictions on advertisements on HFSS foods, but no regulatory action has been taken so far.

Existing regulations are ambiguous and subjective. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, defines as 'misleading' any product or service that deliberately conceals important information. If we interpret important information to be about fat/sugar or salt, FSSAI does not agree. FSS regulations nowhere specify that nutritional information of a food product must be provided in the advertisement. This means that a cola drink can target people, especially children and youth, without disclosing that the drink contains 9-10 teaspoons of sugar per bottle. FSS regulations are yet to provide a definition of HFSS or UPFs and thresholds beyond which these will be regulated.

The result is continued freedom to advertise unhealthy addictive food products across media. This puts people at risk of obesity and diabetes. Studies show that if regulations banning junk foods are implemented, it would cut the rate of childhood obesity significantly.

**The path forward**

The Economic Survey rightly demands stringent front-of-pack labels and stricter marketing curbs. To achieve this, India needs to take the following steps. First, it needs to scrap the Indian Nutrition Rating system and adopt warning labels. Second, there must be clear sugar/salt/fat limits for HFSS foods. The World Health Organization's SEARO guidelines and the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Nutrition guidelines offer a template. Third, advertising loopholes need to be closed through the amendment of existing laws or the enactment of a new one harmonising all laws under a unified UPF/HFSS advertisement ban. Fourth, the government could consider launching a campaign on the risks of UPFs in all languages.

India's obesity crisis is not a public failure but a policy failure. The Economic Survey offers a road map to rectify this. Without urgent action, the plan to halt obesity by 2025 will not be successful. The Prime Minister's vision of a healthy India demands more than rhetoric; India needs a regulatory approach that does not sacrifice children's health for corporate profit. The suggestions in the Economic Survey can break the cycle to achieve the Prime Minister's vision. It is for the policy makers to show urgency and will.

> Weak and subjective labelling and advertising laws have let junk food giants enjoy the freedom to make profits at the expense of public health

# A more conciliatory approach

Palaniswami seems to be changing tack with regard to his position on the BJP

STATE OF PLAY

**T. Ramakrishnan**
ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

The AIADMK general secretary and Leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who burnt his fingers during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections by not stitching up an alliance with several anti-DMK parties, seems to be changing tack regarding the BJP.

This was evident last week in Attur in Salem district. A journalist asked whether the AIADMK was holding talks with the BJP for an alliance for the 2026 Assembly elections. Mr. Palaniswami said that the AIADMK's goal was to defeat its "only enemy", the DMK, and that the party was looking "to harvest all votes against the DMK..." Till recently, Mr. Palaniswami had maintained that the AIADMK would form a "formidable alliance" and fight the elections without any electoral understanding with the BJP, as it did in 2024. His party has so far been soft on the latest entrant to Tamil Nadu politics, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), founded by actor Vijay.

The timing of the statement is significant. Just a day earlier, the bonhomie between leaders of the BJP and the AIADMK was on display at the wedding of the son of former Minister, S.P. Velumani, in Coimbatore. The BJP State president, K. Annamalai, and a host of the AIADMK's second-line leaders exchanged pleasantries. Mr. Palaniswami was absent then, but attended the reception on March 10.

In fact, the AIADMK has cited the Annamalai factor as the main reason for the severance of ties with the BJP in September 2023. Its main grouse was that Mr. Annamalai had disrespected its "guiding lights", such as former Chief Ministers C.N. Annadurai and Jayalalithaa. Even Mr. Palaniswami had given the impression all along that he was unmindful of his party's disastrous performance last year, by holding that the AIADMK, with a 20.66% support base, had increased its vote share by about 1% point compared to 2019.




At the same time, certain sections of the AIADMK are reportedly unhappy with the way the party's affairs are being run. They are getting restless over the present approach of having no truck with erstwhile colleagues, including former coordinator O. Panneerselvam, and adopting a hard line towards the BJP.

Mr. Velumani was the first to strike a different chord. A few days after the results of the Lok Sabha elections were announced last year, he claimed that had his party's alliance with the BJP continued, the alliance could have "easily won" 35-40 seats in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. It was another matter that he blamed Mr. Annamalai for the separation of ties between the two parties. In early July 2024, a group of senior leaders, including K.A. Sengottaiyan, Natham R. Viswanathan, Mr. Velumani, P. Thangamani, C. Ve. Shanmugam, and K.P. Anbalagan, met Mr. Palaniswami and impressed upon him the need to bring back all those who are out of the organisation. Even though Mr. Palaniswami denied that such a meeting took place, more than half the leaders confirmed to this journalist that it did happen.

In October, the party's Kanniyakumari (East) district secretary, N. Thalavai Sundaram, flagged off a rally of the RSS in his part of Kanniyakumari district. Mr. Palaniswami promptly "relieved him temporarily" of the responsibilities of the posts of district and organisation secretary. A month later, Mr. Sundaram was re-inducted into the party after he regretted his conduct. In early February this year, eyebrows were raised in political circles when AIADMK veteran, Mr. Sengottaiyan, known for maintaining a low profile, stayed away from an event organised by farmers to honour Mr. Palaniswami in Annur, Coimbatore district, for the Avinashi-Athikadavu water project, which eventually took off in 2019. His criticism was that the invites and banners for the event did not feature the images of former Chief Ministers M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa, who were instrumental in keeping the project alive.

It was against this backdrop that Mr. Palaniswami called for the consolidation of anti-DMK forces and sounded conciliatory not only towards the BJP, but also those in his party who have been keen on reviving ties with the national party. Mr. Annamalai responded saying that there were parties "performing penance" to forge an alliance; Mr. Palaniswami rejected this. The AIADMK chief said he would firm up the alliance in six months, but is keeping everyone guessing on whether he would go along with the BJP or strike a deal with the TVK.

# Income levels of salaried class have stagnated in recent years

Real wages for salaried jobs were 1.7% lower in the June quarter in 2024 compared to the June 2019 quarter

DATA POINT

**Samreen Wani**

Last week, Niti Aayog member Arvind Virmani said in an interview that while employment is increasing, real wages for regular salaried jobs have not kept up with inflation over the last seven years. Real wages refer to the income a worker earns that is adjusted for inflation. They reflect actual purchasing power.

An analysis of the earnings data for salaried workers, casual labourers, and self-employed persons from Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reports shows that when adjusted for inflation, wages for salaried workers in India have stagnated since 2019.

**Real wages for salaried jobs**

Real wages for salaried jobs were 1.7% lower in the 2024 June quarter (latest data available) compared to the pre-pandemic 2019 June quarter. **Chart 1** shows the wages earned by salaried workers, adjusted for inflation. The workers' real wages increased by 2% in June 2020 compared to the same quarter the previous year. But they dipped again by 6% in June 2021 and by 1% again in June 2022.

Anamitra Roychowdhury, Assistant Professor at the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, says that stagnation in the growth of real wages for salaried workers is "concerning" because there is more supply of labour than demand. "The returns to higher education are declining. People are overqualified for the jobs they have. So while there is growth in employment numbers, well-paying jobs are not available. It is a question of the quality of employment," he says.

Mr. Virmani cited the lack of skills as the main reason for wages not keeping up with inflation. He said skill development is needed at every level of education and for all kinds of jobs.

Rahul Menon, Associate Professor at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy, cites "depressed demand" as a probable reason. "Companies are just not investing, and so would not have much of a demand for salaried employees," he says.

**Wages for casual labour**

On the other hand, wages for casual labour have significantly increased in real terms. **Chart 2** shows the wages for casual labour adjusted for inflation since 2019.

After dipping during the pandemic, wages for casual labour have since increased. Real wages for casual labour were 12.3% higher in the 2024 June quarter compared to the pre-pandemic 2019 June quarter. In rural India, they increased by over 12% and in urban areas, by 11.4% in the same period.

Professor Menon says, "Wages [for casual labour] may show an increase relative to other forms of work, but this is highly irregular and insecure work. An increase in wages for casual labour is not a net positive for the economy."

**Self-employed workers**

After declining significantly during the pandemic years, wages (in real terms) have picked up in the quarters since March 2022 for self-employed workers. However, the wages in the 2024 June quarter were still 1.5% lower than the figures of the 2019 June quarter. While wages for the self-employed in rural areas increased by 3.02%, they declined by 5.2% in urban areas during the same period.

Data from the PLFS show that the share of self-employed workers among all workers rose by 5% points to 58.4% in 2023-24 compared to 2019-20. In contrast, the share of those in casual labour and salaried employment among all workers dipped by 4 points and 1.2 points in the same period to 19.8% and 21.7%, respectively.

Moreover, among those who are self-employed, the share of those working as 'helpers in household enterprises' increased from 15.9% in 2019-20 to 19.4% in 2023-24. The share of those working as 'own account workers' rose by 1.4 points to 39% in 2023-24 compared to 2019-20.

Dr. Roychowdhury says the increase in the share of unpaid helpers in self-employment will reduce the average earnings in this category. "It is a sign of distress if the share of self-employed people is increasing in the labour force. It is one thing to be employed and another to be employed with low returns," he explains.

Professor Menon explains that demonetisation and implementation of the Goods and Service Tax (GST) were significant 'negative shocks' to the economy which led to a rise in unemployment and "at the very least, ensured that wages did not grow as fast as it would have done if these policies were not implemented."

Dr. Roychowdhury adds that wages have been stagnant since 2018 and the idea that economic growth is 'robust' is not entirely true because the government is implementing various policies to provide a boost to economic growth and domestic demand.

"In any economy, the largest demand component is consumption expenditure. This typically comes from the availability of income in the hands of the people. If there is stagnation in the wages of a large section of people, especially for those in the informal sector, there will not be a boost in consumption levels," he says.

Dr. Roychowdhury believes that the government has more or less accepted this fact by announcing a change in the tax slabs in the recent Budget. "Private investment is not happening because they are not expecting the market to grow since wages are low," he adds.

Professor Menon does not see any prospect of a "significant increase" in wages in the near future given the stagnation in private investment.

## Not a fair wage

The data for the charts were sourced from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Reports and CMIE. It also includes The Hindu's calculations

**Chart 1:** The chart shows the average wage/salary earnings (in ₹ and in real terms) by regular wage/salaried employees in current weekly status

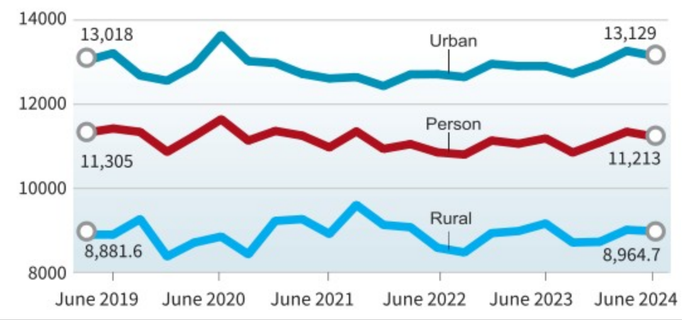



**Chart 2:** The chart shows the average earnings (in ₹) per day by casual labour engaged in works other than public works (in real terms)

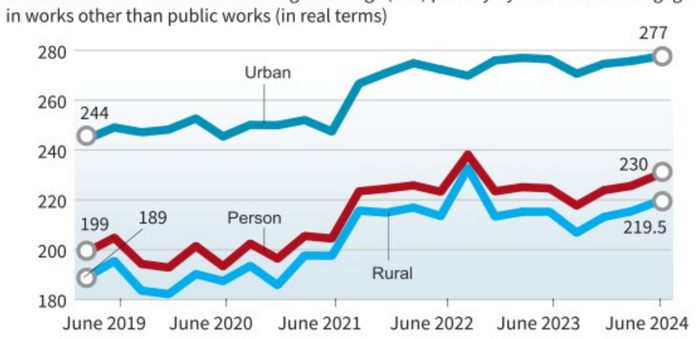
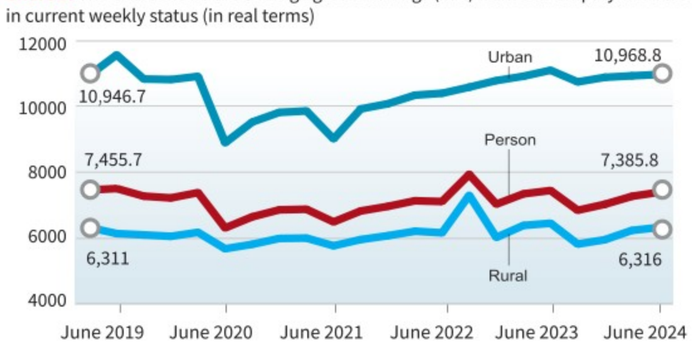



**Chart 3:** The chart shows the average gross earnings (in ₹) from self-employment work in current weekly status (in real terms)




FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1975

## Maldivian President ousts PM

Colombo, March 10: President Amir Ibrahim Nasir, President of Maldives, has ousted the Prime Minister, Mr. Ahmed Zaki, from power, banished him to one of the uninhabited outlying islets of the tiny Muslim Republic and assumed control, diplomatic sources in Colombo confirmed here this morning.

The bloodless coup resulting in removal of the 43-year-old Zaki, who had been heading the Maldivian Government since 1972 and was re-elected to the post in February this year, took place on the night of Friday last.

Mr. Zaki was stated to have been detained along with the Chief of Protocol, Mr. Jaleel.

President Ibrahim Nash has assumed powers under Article 37 of the Constitution which authorises him to do so in the event of an emergency.

No further details of the development are available here as there has been complete blockout of news from Male, capital of the Republic, and air traffic between Maldives and Colombo has also been disrupted since Saturday last.

Reports reaching here did not speak of riots or violence in the Republic.

A spokesman at the Maldivian Embassy said, "The situation in the Maldives is quite normal."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 11, 1925

## Kasturiranga Iyengar free reading room

Villivakam, March 11: The above Reading Room was opened this morning at 8 a.m. in "Rama Vilas", Villivakam. Mr. M. Kuppuswami Sastriar was voted to the chair. He dwelt at length on the benefits of a reading room and called upon Mr. K.V. Radhakrishna Sastri to say a few words.

Mr. K.V. Radhakrishna Sastri spoke as follows: "It has long been my ambition to open a Free Reading Room to perpetuate the memory of Mr. S. Kasturiranga Iyengar, the doyen of Indian journalism. Mr. Kasturiranga Iyengar was an eminent Indian journalist who rendered meritorious service to his country throughout his long and eventful career as the Editor of "The Hindu". If Kasturiranga Iyengar had lived and served as he had done in Madras, in any other country, a statue would have been erected.

## From Page One

## Union Minister, DMK MPs spar in Lok Sabha

"I have used a word which I should not have used for the members from Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu government, and people of Tamil Nadu. I withdraw my word if it has hurt anyone," Mr. Pradhan said in the House.

**Birla rebukes Maran**

Amid protests by the DMK members, Mr. Birla rebuked party MP Dayanidhi Maran for making a comment on the Chair.

"Be careful while speaking, whatever you said was not on record. Had it been on record, I would have ensured proper action against you," Mr. Birla warned Mr. Maran.

The Speaker then asked Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju to bring a motion against Mr. Maran. Mr. Rijiju condemned the remark of the DMK member and assured the Chair that the government would act after taking a sense of the House.

**When it started**

Trouble started during the Question Hour when Mr. Pradhan said the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government had changed its stand on implementing the centrally sponsored PM SHRI scheme that seeks to strengthen schools managed by the Centre, State, or local bodies.

A State has to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Union government that it would implement the National Education Policy, (NEP) 2020 and in return, the Union government would provide the funds.

"The Tamil Nadu government had initially agreed to sign the MoU. But now they have changed the stand. Many non-BJP-ruled states, including Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh, have signed the agreement," Mr. Pradhan said, adding that the DMK too had agreed at one point when a delegation came to meet him.

The Minister claimed that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had also agreed initially "but suddenly some super CM appeared and they took a U-Turn. They just want to do politics".

Taking strong exception to the Minister's remarks, the DMK members trooped into the Well of the House and forced an adjournment. When the House reassembled at noon, Ms. Kanimozhi said she was "very pained and hurt" by a particular word used by Mr. Pradhan.

She added that along with Tamil Nadu Education Minister and other DMK colleagues, she had met Mr. Pradhan to request him to release the funds to the State under education schemes. "We have clearly said that we have issues with the NEP and we cannot accept it in full. We said that the three-language formula is not acceptable to Tamil Nadu," Ms. Kanimozhi said.

Speaking to presspersons outside Parliament, Ms. Kanimozhi said, "This is a budgetary allocation. Why are you withholding that money and saying that you come and sign that you will accept the NEP and three-language policy, only then we will release the funds?"

## Lalit Modi's Vanuatu passport to be 'cancelled'

Soon after the announcement of the Vanuatuan government, Mr. Modi posted a message on X along with videos and photos that showed him visiting Vanuatu. "Vanuatu (is) a beautiful country. You must put on your bucket list. Away from all the pollution and noise. Truly heavenly country," said Mr. Modi in the message.

Last week, the Ministry confirmed that Mr. Modi had reached out to the Indian High Commission in the U.K. seeking cancellation of his Indian passport. "It is learnt that Mr. Lalit Modi has made an application for surrender of his passport at the High Commission of India in London. The same will be examined in light of extant rules and procedures. We are also given to understand that he has acquired citizenship of Vanuatu. We continue to pursue the case against him as required under law," said Official Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on March 7.

## Mark Carney to replace Trudeau as Canada PM

Mr. Carney said Canada will keep retaliatory tariffs in place until "the Americans show us respect".

"We didn't ask for this fight. But Canadians are always ready when someone else drops the gloves," Mr. Carney said.

Mr. Carney navigated crises when he was the head of the Bank of Canada and when in 2013 he became the first non-citizen to run the Bank of England since it was founded in 1694. His appointment won bipartisan praise in the U.K. after Canada recovered from the 2008 financial crisis faster than many other countries.

The opposition Conservatives hoped to make the election about Mr. Trudeau, whose popularity declined as food and housing prices rose and immigration surged.

Mr. Trump's trade war and his talk of making Canada the 51st U.S. State have infuriated Canadians, who are booing the American anthem at NHL and NBA games. Some are cancelling trips south of the border, and many are avoiding buying American goods when they can.

The surge in Canadian nationalism has bolstered the Liberal Party's chances in a parliamentary election expected within days or weeks.

# New Delhi considers restoring High Commissioner to Canada to reset ties

A new Canadian PM spells reset opportunity for ties hit by Nijjar killing, say former Indian, Canadian diplomats; last week, PM-designate Carney spoke of 'opportunities to rebuild' ties with India as Canada diversifies trade ties amid Trump's tariffs

**Suhasini Haidar**
NEW DELHI

The government is considering restoring a High Commissioner to Canada, sources said, in signs that the exit of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from office could signal a thaw in bilateral ties that have been virtually frozen since 2023 over the Nijjar case. Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) chief Daniel Rogers is set to visit India next week to attend a meeting of intelligence chiefs in Delhi.

The meeting will be the first such since the heated, extended exchange over the case between Indian and Canadian national security teams headed by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart in Singapore last October.

According to sources, the Ministry of External Affairs has discussed possible candidates to replace previous High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma, as the position remains vacant since he was expelled along with five Indian diplomats a few days after that Singapore meeting. The Trudeau government called them "persons of interest" in the June 2023 killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, but the Modi government denied all the charges, and said no evidence has been shared of the claims, including those linking Home Minister Amit Shah to the plot.

**Outgoing PM:** Justin Trudeau speaking during the Liberal leadership announcement in Ottawa, Ontario, on Sunday. AP

New Delhi then withdrew its diplomats and expelled six Canadian diplomats including the Acting High Commissioner in retaliation. It is unclear whether a new Canadian High Commissioner to India will be appointed by the newly elected leader of the Liberal party and Prime Minister-designate, Mark Carney, after he is sworn in in the next few weeks, or after Canadian federal elections are held later this year, but sources said "diplomatic movements" are already underway.

In addition, both Mr. Carney and his Conservative Party rival Pierre Pollievre have indicated they would like to rework ties with India.

Last week, Mr. Carney said there were "opportunities to rebuild relationships with India" as Canada diversifies trade ties in the wake of tensions with U.S. President Donald Trump over tariffs. "There needs to be a shared sense of values around that commercial relationship [with India]. If I am Prime Minister, I look forward to the opportunity to build that," he said at a public event in Calgary.

**Diplomats meeting**

Some former diplomats from Delhi and Ottawa have met in the past few months for Track 2 discussions on how to rebuild ties that have skidded downhill since September 2023, when Mr. Trudeau announced in Parliament that Indian "government agents" were suspected to have orchestrated the killing of Nijjar outside a gurdwara in Brampton. They have said Mr. Trudeau's departure is an opportunity for the relationship.

"Given the existential crisis Canada faces from Trump, India has to be an important piece of Canada's diversification strategy. The lowest hanging fruit is the speedy return of High Commissioners to both capitals," said former High Commissioner to Canada Vikas Swarup.

Former Canadian diplomat David McKinnon, who served in Delhi, concurred, while noting that the Nijjar case is now before the courts, and there would be some "twists and turns" in the trial that could still affect ties.

"Given his background, I would like to think Mark Carney will be inclined to engage in international relations more thoughtfully and quietly. But he is completely untested in the political realm, of course, and he will be relying on much of the same party apparatus that served Justin Trudeau as leader," he added.

## New U.S. tariffs not imposed yet: Commerce Secretary

**Sobhana K. Nair**
NEW DELHI

The U.S. had not yet officially imposed new tariffs on India, the Commerce Secretary on Monday evening informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, sources said.

Facing a barrage of questions from the Opposition on why India has given a muted response, unlike Canada and Mexico, to U.S. President Donald Trump's criticism of India's tariff regime in several statements, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, who briefed the panel, clarified that India was still negotiating with the United States, and had not made any commitments so far. The U.S., Mr. Barthwal said, had not imposed any new taxes yet.

While conceding that Mr. Trump's tariff announcements had thrown the world economy into a tizzy, Mr. Barthwal assured the panel that the government was working to ensure all agreements and trade deals would be mutually beneficial.

# 13 held as groups clash during rally in Mhow to mark India's cricket win

**Mehul Malpani**
BHOPAL

At least 13 people were arrested on Monday in Mhow in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh after clashes broke out between two communities late on Sunday night during a rally taken out to celebrate the victory of the Indian cricket team in the ICC Champions Trophy final, authorities said.

District Collector Ashish Singh said an FIR had been filed, and the National Security Act (NSA) would be invoked against some of the accused. He said the situation was under control, and asked the public not to believe in rumours. He warned of action against those spreading rumours.

The revellers allegedly burst crackers outside the the Jama Masjid here, leading to an altercation followed by stone-throwing and clashes, the police said.

**Violent turn:** The police dousing the fire as a motorcycle burns in Mhow town of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday night. PTI

Videos of fire, arson, stone-throwing, and vandalism on vehicles by mobs have surfaced online. Several cars and two-wheelers were torched.

"A detailed investigation is being conducted. No culprit will be spared. Strict action is being taken against the culprits. After the incident, a strict vigil is being maintained in Dr. Ambedkar Nagar in Mhow," the Collector said in a statement.

**Seven injured**

Deputy Inspector-General of Police Nimish Agrawal told *The Hindu* that seven people sustained minor injuries in multiple incidents of arson, vandalism and stone-throwing across the town, which has a military cantonment.

He said the police were currently investigating what instigated the violence. "One side is saying that firecrackers were burst outside a mosque and the other is alleging stone-throwing. We are probing and will act as per evidence," he said.

He said police personnel had been deployed in heavy numbers across the town.

Late on Sunday night, Superintendent of Police, Indore Rural, Hitika Vasal said, "During some celebratory rallies after the India-New Zealand match, some miscreants burst firecrackers outside a mosque following which stones were thrown from both sides."

# Associations of real money gaming firms put out ethics code

**Aroon Deep**
NEW DELHI

**The code seeks to prevent minors from playing the games, and 'protect vulnerable players'**

Three industry associations in the real money gaming (RMG) space put out a Code of Ethics for their members, they announced on Monday. The All India Gaming Federation (AIGF), the E-Gaming Federation (EGF) and the Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports (FIFS) represent members such as Dream11 and PokerBaazi which run games in which users can risk money for reward. For firms with over 10 crore users, the code kicks in in six months, and for others in nine months.

*The Hindu* reviewed a copy of the code, which seeks to prevent minors from playing the games, "protect vulnerable players", and make sure games and their advertising are run in a responsible manner.

The move comes even as the Union government's regulations for RMG players are yet to kick in substantively, and the States move independently in trying to put controls on the industry.

The code's provisions state that RMG firms should conduct an annual audit of whether they are compliant with the law. The provisions include mandatory Know-Your-Customer verification, transparent terms, a self-exclusion feature, and grievance redress systems.

# Calcutta HC judge Joymalya Bagchi elevated to top court

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Centre notified the President's appointment of Justice Joymalya Bagchi of the Calcutta High Court as a Supreme Court judge on Monday.

Justice Bagchi is in line to be the Chief Justice of India in 2031. The Supreme Court Collegium had recommended his name to the government for elevation on March 6.

In its March 6 resolution, the collegium said there had not been a Chief Justice of India from the Calcutta High Court after the retirement of Justice Altamas Kabir on July 18, 2013.

The resolution made it clear that regional representation was as important a criterion as integrity and merit in judicial appointments.

Justice Bagchi will have a tenure of more than six years before he assumes the office of the Chief Justice of India. By seniority norm, Justice Bagchi will take over the office of the CJI in May 2031 and continue till his retirement on October 2, 2031.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi

The collegium, while zeroing in on Justice Bagchi, had taken into consideration the fact that at present, the Bench of the Supreme Court was represented by only one judge from the Calcutta High Court, Justice Dipankar Datta.

# ED searches residence of Bhupesh Baghel and son in liquor scam case

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**
RAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday searched the premises of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel in Bhilai town of Durg district as part of a money laundering investigation against his son in a liquor scam case.

Mr. Bhupesh shares the residence with his son Chaitanya Baghel. The agency searched the premises linked to Laxmi Narayan Bansal, alias Pappu Bansal, a close aide of Mr. Chaitanya, and others. Some 14 locations were searched, the agency said.

An ED source said the agency had gathered that Mr. Chaitanya was an alleged recipient of proceeds of crime generated from the liquor scam.

Addressing mediapersons and party colleagues in the evening, Mr. Bhupesh alleged that the ED was harassing him and he was being targeted because of the questions he asked in the Assembly.

Security personnel during a search on the premises linked to Chaitanya Baghel in Bhilai in Chhattisgarh on Monday. PTI

On the purported "recoveries" made during the search, he wrote in a post on X that the officials had found ₹33 lakh, which can be accounted for, and papers related to corruption allegations against a BJP leader and his relatives.

Earlier, the former Chief Minister's office, in a post on X, said the action was part of a conspiracy to stop the Congress in Punjab. Mr. Bhupesh was recently appointed the Congress general secretary in charge of Punjab, which goes to the polls in 2027.

The post referred to his discharge by a court in an alleged sex CD case recently. "When the false case going on for seven years was dismissed in the court, today the guests of ED have entered the Bhilai residence of former Chief Minister, Congress general secretary Bhupesh Baghel this morning. If someone is trying to stop Congress in Punjab through this conspiracy, then it is a misunderstanding," it read.

Sachin Pilot, Congress general secretary in charge of Chhattisgarh, said the search exposed "the Central Government's intention of political vendetta". "BJP is using agencies like ED, CBI to intimidate and suppress Opposition leaders and misuse of agencies has now become a well-planned pattern," he said.

Congress MLAs raised the issue in the Assembly too. They trooped into the Well of the House and raised slogans against the ruling BJP. Congress workers staged a protest outside the Bhilai residence of the former Chief Minister.

According to the ED, the alleged liquor scam took place during the Congress regime in the State between 2018 and 2023.

*(With inputs from Devesh K. Pandey in New Delhi).*

# Rahul demands discussion on voter lists in Parliament

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday said questions were being raised across the country on the sanctity of voter lists, and demanded a discussion on the issue in the Lower House.

"We accept your remarks that the government does not make voter lists. In every Opposition-ruled State, questions are being raised. In Maharashtra, the questions are in black and white," Mr. Gandhi said during Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha.

"The Opposition in one voice is saying that there should be a discussion on voter lists. We accept that the government doesn't make them; you also accept our demand to have a discussion," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, after being disallowed to raise the issue in the Upper House, took to X to demand a discussion.

"Given the serious threat these large-scale irregularities pose to the free and fair conduct of elections in our country, it is imperative for the Modi government to allow a comprehensive discussion on the matter in Parliament," Mr. Kharge said on X.

**'Serious flaws'**

In the Lok Sabha, the issue was first raised by Trinamool Congress member Saugata Roy, who said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had pointed out that voters with the same EPIC numbers were present in Murshidabad and Burdwan constituencies, and Haryana.

Stating that a Trinamool delegation would meet the newly appointed Chief Election Commissioner to flag their concerns, Mr. Roy demanded a thorough revision of the voter lists ahead of the Assembly elections in West Bengal and Assam next year.

"There are some serious flaws. This has been pointed out with respect to Maharashtra, which had inflated voter lists. This was pointed out in Haryana. They are now trying to jump into West Bengal and Assam where elections are due next year," Mr. Roy said. "The Election Commission should answer to the country why some mistakes occurred in the lists."

The Trinamool Congress's Kalyan Banerjee demanded action against the EC for "failing" to conduct fair and transparent elections over the past few years.

He said the "faulty" voter lists were a matter of serious concern and amounted to a breach of Rule 20 of the Conduct of Elections Rules.

# Opposition MPs stage walkout in Rajya Sabha

Parties protest after Deputy Chair rejects their demand to discuss voter ID irregularities and the delimitation exercise under Rule 267; the BJP criticises the move, calling it a 'vicious design'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Political storm:** MPs in the Rajya Sabha during the second part of the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

The Opposition parties staged a walkout within 14 minutes of the Rajya Sabha session after their demand to suspend the day's business to discuss duplicate voter identity cards and delimitation was declined.

Union Minister and Leader of the House J.P. Nadda berated the Opposition for their alleged "vicious design to demean the institution of Parliament" and for being irresponsible.

Twelve Opposition MPs had moved notices under Rule 267, which requires the suspension of the day's business to discuss the issue.

Trinamool Congress members Saket Gokhale and Sagarika Ghose, along with Pramod Tiwari and Ajay Maken of the Congress, demanded discussions over the alleged lapse by the Election Commission in issuing multiple "duplicate" voter ID cards across States.

Tiruchi N. Siva and P. Wilson of the DMK; Sandosh Kumar P. and P.P. Suneer of the CPI; and Vaiko of the MDMK, demanded discussions on delimitation in the southern States.

Citing an earlier ruling on Rule 267, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Harivansh, rejected the notices, leading to loud protests from the Opposition.

He did not allow Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to make his submission.

After raising slogans, the Opposition MPs staged a walkout.

Mr. Nadda termed the walkout "irresponsible behaviour", and suggested that the Opposition MPs go for a refresher course on the rules of the House.

He termed the practice of Opposition MPs giving notice under Rule 267 despite the Chair's elaborate ruling as a "vicious design to demean the institution of Parliament".

**'Ready to discuss'**

"They are not interested in debate. They want to create an impression that the government doesn't want to answer any questions. The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ready to discuss anything under this roof. But there are certain rules and regulations for debates in the House," Mr. Nadda said, adding that the MPs will get an opportunity to raise their issues during the debate on the Union Budget over the next 10 days.

# Parliamentary panel asks govt. to conduct Census at the earliest

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

The population count that was to be done in 2021 has been indefinitely postponed.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has recommended that the Census be completed at the earliest.

The panel observed that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) may prepare data on the influx of immigrants, including Bangladeshis, Rohingya from Myanmar, and those from other countries. "Rohingyas are entering and settling illegally in various parts of the country," the committee said.

"MHA should take effective steps to identify the illegally settled Rohingyas and repatriate them to their parent countries," it recommended.

The panel suggested that the Ministry explore and leverage additional existing digital platforms and tools, including mobile phone connections, Aadhaar, and other government databases for real-time data collection. Further, linking the data collected through these digital channels with the Aadhaar database could provide additional layers of verification, ensuring data integrity and reducing the need for manual cross-checking, the committee said.

The population count that was to be done in 2021 has been indefinitely postponed by the government.

The committee, led by Radha Mohan Das Agarwal of the BJP, tabled the 252nd report on Demand for Grants (2025-26) for the Ministry on Monday in the Rajya Sabha.

The Ministry informed the committee that ₹1,309.46 crore was allocated for the Census exercise in the Union Budget, 2024-25 in anticipation of the declaration of the Census and update of the National Population Register (NPR), which had been postponed after the outbreak of COVID-19.

"As the Census was not declared, the Revised Estimate for 2024-25 was reduced to ₹572 crores. In view of this, the Budget Estimate for 2025-26, for the time being, has been kept at ₹574.80 crores considering the expected liabilities for various activities under this Head," the report said.

The Ministry said many of the Census-related preparatory activities had been completed, technological update was in progress, and as and when the Census exercise was undertaken, additional funds would be sought in accordance with the year-wise requirement. It said the proposed expenditure for the financial year 2025-26 encompassed various activities aimed at continuing preparatory work for the Census and the NPR, including technological updates.

# Lok Sabha to discuss President's Rule in Manipur, approve Budget

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha will have an hour-long discussion on the statutory resolution seeking approval of the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur.

A meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee, chaired by Speaker Om Birla on Monday, decided on the discussion.

Manipur is currently under President's Rule and Parliament will have to approve its Budget. Earlier on Monday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Manipur Budget for 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha, earmarking an expenditure of ₹35,103.9 crore, up from ₹32,656.81 crore in this financial year. The Budget discussions will start from Tuesday and they have been clubbed with the debates on the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2024-25 and the Demands for Excess Grants for 2021-22 and six hours have been allotted for it.

# INDIA bloc was meant only for 2024 Lok Sabha election: Prakash Karat

**S. Anandan**
KOLLAM

Prakash Karat

The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), comprising 26 non-BJP parties, was formed with the specific purpose of fighting the Lok Sabha election in 2024 and "nobody has given any thought to what it should be post-2024", CPI(M) Polit Bureau coordinator Prakash Karat told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the party's State conference in Kollam on Sunday.

"Our party [CPI(M)] was against it having any organisational structure because you cannot have 26 parties with varying policies, ideologies, personalities, etc. having such a central unified structure. They tried to form a coordination committee, and we said it's not going to work. Eventually, only the leaders used to meet. Some committees were set up but none of them worked. We said electoral understanding or seat-sharing should be done State-wise because no all-India discussion could be possible. For instance, the TMC [Trinamool Congress] and the CPI(M) cannot work together in [West] Bengal, and the CPI(M) and the Congress will not work together in Kerala. So, it was a State-wise electoral understanding for the Lok Sabha polls and it yielded good results. The BJP lost its majority and came down to 240 seats. So, the perspective or vision of the INDIA bloc was only up to the Lok Sabha election," Mr. Karat said.

The INDIA bloc took a backseat in the Assembly elections and the byelections held after the Lok Sabha election because the fight was primarily between the parties in the grouping. Only in some States such as Tamil Nadu and Bihar, there are alliances featuring these parties that predate the INDIA bloc, he said.

"Post-Lok Sabha [election], these parties have to think if they need a platform and if so, how do they shape it. Can it be only election-oriented? If that's the case, no need to do anything now," he said.

In Kerala, where a CPI (M)-led coalition has been in power for nearly a decade, the challenge before the party is political and not organisational, he said.

The Lok Sabha election has shown that the BJP has expanded in certain sections and parts of Kerala electorally. "In our review of the Lok Sabha election, this has come out sharply. We were taken unawares also in some places. There's a general rightward shift globally which is there in Kerala society as well. How do you deal with that? That was one of the things seriously discussed at this State conference," he said.

Mr. Karat said religiosity had grown among all communities lately, but the communal forces had begun to use it. "It affects the Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and others and it's not a good thing for India. We have worked out some ways to address this culturally and socially," he said.

# 'Integration of AI in judiciary must be done cautiously'

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

Supreme Court judge Justice B.R. Gavai has voiced apprehension about efforts to turn AI as a tool to predict court verdicts, questioning if a machine lacking human emotions and moral reasoning can be expected to truly grasp the complexities and nuances of legal disputes.

He said the integration of AI in judiciary must be done cautiously. It must serve as an aid, not replace the human mind and judgment. "The essence of justice often involves ethical considerations, empathy, and contextual understanding, elements that remain beyond the reach of algorithms," Justice Gavai said while speaking in his address at Nairobi.

# Rail safety topmost priority for Centre: Ashwini Vaishnaw

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Replying to a debate in Rajya Sabha on the Railways (Amendment) Bill, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday said safety is the topmost priority.

He also said the Narendra Modi-led government has taken several measures to improve the safety apparatus of the rail network.

Expressing condolences over the death of several passengers in a stampede at the New Delhi Railway Station recently, Mr. Vaishnaw denied the charges that CCTVs were turned off at the station during the accident.

The House passed the Bill after defeating the amendments moved by some MPs in a voice vote.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
**VACANCY CALL**
**APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA, DEHRADUN**

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. WII is an internationally acclaimed institution that offers training programs, academic courses and advisory services in wildlife research and management. The Institute is actively engaged in research on biodiversity related issues across the country.
The Institute also conducts Diploma and Post Graduate Courses and supports Doctoral Research students.
Applications from eligible and willing candidates are invited for filling up of the post of Director, Wildlife Institute of India on direct recruitment or on deputation basis.
Indian Forest Service officers and Scientists having the requisite qualification and experience are eligible to apply for the post. The details of the eligibility criteria along with the application form may be downloaded from the websites **https://moef.gov.in** and **http://ifs.nic.in** **Last date for receipt of applications is 25th April 2025.**

**Sunil Sharma**
**Joint Director (WL)**
**E.mail: jd-wl@nic.in**

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**03/04/2025**
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is by 15:00 hours on
**14/04/2025**
For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

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**KOTA SUPER THERMAL POWER STATION, Kota-324008**
**E-TENDER NOTICE**
Online Tenders are invited for procurement of 18313(RVU2425GLOB02151) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LED based medium intensity aviation obstruction lights (Type-A) with Flasher Synchronization control and monitoring controller panel for chimneys, 13297(RVU2425GLOB02165) Supply of spares of Instrumentation Limited Palakkad make pneumatic drive actuator, 5383(RVU2425WSOB02154) Annual contract for capital and routine maintenance of boiler pressure part area (HP/LP welding of boiler/turbine area, HP/LP Valves, soot blowers & its associated works) & 5387(RVU2425WSOB02158) Hiring of 07 Nos. buses with driver &conductor (32 Seater, model 2022or latest) 01 no for 16 hrs. Service & 06 nos. for 08 hrs. Service to transport KSTPS staff and their school going Children for 03 years at KSTPS, Kota. Tender details are available on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
**Raj.Samwad/C/24/12881** **RVUN/PR-4157** **Chief Engineer (KSTPS)**

**Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike**
Executive Engineer, SWD-South Zone, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore-560 011.
**No: EE/SWD/SOUTH/TEND/02/2024-25** **Date: 10/03/2025**
**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
**(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal GOK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)**
The Executive Engineer SWD- South Zone, BBMP, Bangalore invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways / MES /National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. (Standard Tender Document -KW4).

| Sl. No. | Name of Assignment |
|---|---|
| 1 | Construction of flood protection structures to SWD including RCC retaining walls, Water retention structures, Nature based solution structures/Bridges and culverts under Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Programme (KWSRP) with externally funded project (World Bank) in **South zone including KVP Package-01**. **Approximate Value of work :** Rs.6741.68 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs.1,00,000.00 through KPP portal and Rs.66,42,000/- through BG in favour of EE (SWD-South Zone). |

**Calendar of Events:** 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from 11.03.2025. 2) Last date for queries 26.03.2025 upto 17.30 hrs. 3) Pre-Bid Meeting is on 28.03.2025 at 16.00 hours at Office of the Executive Engineer, Storm Water Drain-South Zone. 4) Last Date for receipt of Tenders is on 15.04.2025 up to 17.30 hours. 5) Date of Opening of the bid is on 16.04.2025 by 17.30 hours or next working day. 6) Date of Opening of the financial bid will be intimated to technically qualified contractor successful bidder in KPP portal.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD-South Zone**

**UT OF LAKSHADWEEP**
**LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**
**(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)**
**Ph: 04842323448/458 E-mail: amindivi@asianetindia.com**
F.No: LDCL/Steamer-3 Dt : 05.03.2025
**RE-TENDER**
E-tender is invited for engagement of Stevedoring agency for Steamer Agency Service for UTLA owned Cargo Barges for Mangalore Port through tender No; LDCL/Steamer/Mangalore-1. For details and E-tendering please visit website **https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTL** and **https://tendersutl.gov.in** Tender due on 26.03.2025 at 11.00 AM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 080-40482000 / 9605557738/9686115318 **(https://tenderwizard.com/UTL)** and 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787 **(https://tendersutl.gov.in).**
**Sd/- MD (LDCL)**

## INBRIEF

### 'Indonesia has not decided on buying missiles from BrahMos'

Indonesia has not yet made a decision on buying missiles from BrahMos Aerospace in India, a spokesperson at the country's Defence Ministry said on Monday. Multiple missile systems are being considered by Indonesia, not just those from BrahMos, spokesperson Frega Wenas said after Indonesia's Defence Minister met with his counterpart from Vietnam. BrahMos, a company co-owned by the Indian and Russian governments, had said in 2023 that it was in advanced discussions with Jakarta on a deal worth $200 million to $350 million. "For now it is one of our considerations to review, but I cannot give an official statement when there's no formal contract," the spokesperson said. REUTERS

### LS passes Bills of Lading Bill aimed to simplify shipping

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, which aims to update and simplify the legal framework for shipping documents replacing the colonial era Act of 1856. "The current law, a brief three-Section Act, primarily governs the transfer of rights and confirmation that goods were loaded onto a vessel. With the shipping industry evolving and the global trade landscape changing, there is a pressing need for India to adopt a more comprehensive and understandable law that aligns with international standards," the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said in a statement.

# India second-largest arms importer after Ukraine in 2020-24, says SIPRI

**At 36%, imports from Russia made up largest share of Indian imports, down from 55% in 2015-19; India received the largest share of French arms exports at 28%; China dropped out of the list of top 10 arms importers for the first time since 1990-94**

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Ukraine, involved in a war with Russia for the past four years, became the largest importer of major arms in the world during the period between 2020 and 2024, clocking a nearly 100-fold rise in imports compared with the figures for 2015-2019.

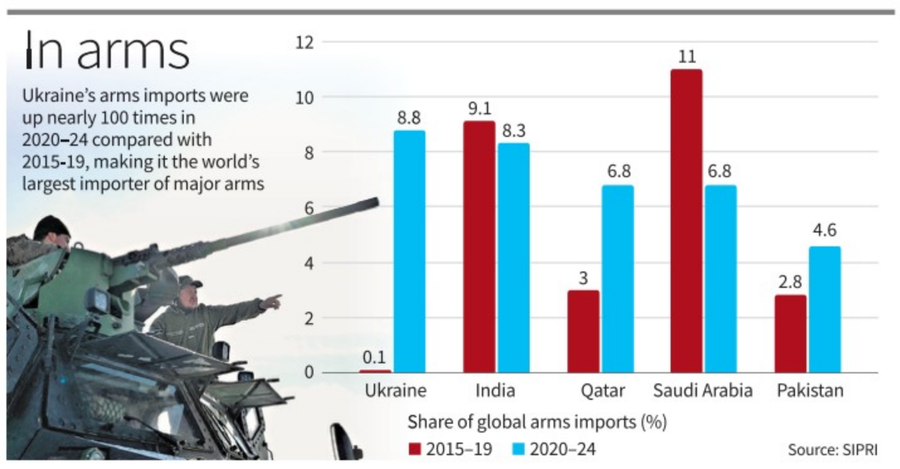
India was the second-largest arms importer, though the trade figures decreased by 9.3% between 2015-19 and 2020-24, show data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The country was the biggest arms export destination for both Russia and France, though the volume with Moscow has significantly reduced.

China dropped out of the list of top 10 arms importers for the first time since 1990-94, showcasing its expanding domestic industrial base.

The largest share of Indian arms imports (36%) came from Russia, a significantly smaller share than in 2015-19 (55%) and 2010-14 (72%), the report noted.

"Arms imports by Pakistan grew by 61% between 2015-19 and 2020-24. China became even more dominant as its supplier, accounting for 81% of Pakistan's arms imports in 2020-24, compared with 74% in 2015-19," the SIPRI report released on Monday said.




While European arms imports overall grew by 155% between the same periods as the continent rearms itself, the U.S. further increased its share of global arms exports to 43%, while Russia's exports fell by 64%, accounting for 7.8% of global arms exports, falling behind France (9.6%), which emerged as the second largest arms exporter in 2020-24. Four countries in Asia and Oceania – India, Pakistan, Japan, and Australia– ranked among the 10 largest arms importers globally in 2020-24.

Russia delivered major arms to 33 countries in 2020-24, of which two-thirds went to three countries – India (38%), China (17%), and Kazakhstan (11%).

**French exports**

At the same time, France exported arms to 65 countries, and its exports of major arms to other European countries almost trebled between 2015-19 and 2020-24 (187%), according to SIPRI.

"This was mainly due to deliveries of combat aircraft to Greece and Croatia, and arms supplies to Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022."

Nevertheless, India received by far the largest share of French arms exports (28%) – almost twice the share that went to all European recipients combined (15%).

The second largest recipient of major arms from France was Qatar (9.7%).

India has inked contracts for some major military platforms from France, including 36 Rafale fighter jets and six Scorpene-class conventional submarines, and has more mega deals lined up.

Meanwhile, deals for 26 Rafale-M jets and three submarines are set to be concluded very soon.

**Global transfer volume**

The overall volume of arms transfers globally remained at roughly the same level as in 2015-19 and 2010-14 (but was 18% higher than in 2005-2009), as increasing imports in Europe and the Americas were offset by decreases in other regions, data show.

Italy, with a 4.8% share of arms sales, jumped from 10th to sixth place on the exporters' list.

The report stated that at least 35 countries sent weapons to Ukraine since the war began in 2022, and a substantial number of deliveries are in the pipeline. The country received 8.8% of global arms imports in 2020-24.

"The new arms transfers figures clearly reflect the rearmament taking place among states in Europe in response to the threat from Russia," said Mathew George, programme director at SIPRI. However, some major arms importers, including Saudi Arabia, India, and China, saw large declines in import volumes for a variety of reasons, he added.

## SJM asks govt. to strive for bilateral trade agreements

**Nistula Hebbar**
NEW DELHI

The Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM), the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) frontal organisation on the economy, in a resolution has said the government should enhance its foreign trade with bilateral trade agreements rather than multilateral trade agreements in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's pronouncements on global trade tariffs.

At a meeting of the SJM's national council held in Raipur on March 9-10, a resolution called on the Union government to prioritise the "national interests of our farmers and small entrepreneurs" while negotiating with the U.S. on trade.

"The U.S. has suddenly realised under Donald Trump that for decades it has bought more goods from the rest of the world, than it sold...now Trump wants to reverse this situation," the resolution said.

"While making it very clear that SJM is not against promoting international trade, we firmly believe that multilateral trade agreements are not good for the economy, as there is no point giving Most Favoured Nation treatment to all countries," it added.

# Bomb hoax makes Air India flight return to Mumbai

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Air India's Mumbai-New York flight was forced to return on Monday after two notes were found aboard with bomb threats that were later pronounced a hoax by security agencies.

The flight took off at 1.45 a.m. from Mumbai, and landed back at 10.25 a.m. local time after which it underwent mandatory checks by security agencies.

"The flight has been rescheduled to operate at 5 a.m. on March 11, 2025, and all passengers have been offered hotel accommodation, meals, and other assistance until then," Air India said in a statement.

**Long, arduous exercise**

A note was found inside a lavatory and another on a seat, a security agency source said. After a 10-hour security drill, the threats were declared a hoax. The exercise is a long and arduous one for all, including passengers, which involves taking the aircraft to an isolation bay, where each luggage item is removed and reconciled with passengers to find if there is suspicious baggage, following which passengers are boarded on a coach and sent to the terminal building while security agencies physically inspect the aircraft.

A note was found inside a lavatory and another on a seat, a security agency source says.

Another Chicago-Delhi flight of Air India was forced to return and land at the airport of origin on March 5 after a 10-hour flight due to unserviceable lavatories.

Airline teams found "polythene bags, rags, and clothes that had been flushed down and stuck in the plumbing".

On other instances, the airline has found blankets, innerwear, and diapers, among other waste, being flushed down the toilets.

Air India flight AI 126 took off from Chicago O'Hare International Airport at 16.35 hours (UTC). About an hour and 45 minutes into the flight, the crew reported some of the lavatories in Business and Economy Class to be unserviceable.

Misuse of toilets is a common complaint from airline staff.

# 'Over six lakh cases identified as part of TB control campaign'

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**
NEW DELHI

**India has the world's largest TB epidemic and continues to be a major public health problem**

Over 6.1 lakh tuberculosis patients have been notified across the country and of them, 4.3 lakh have been diagnosed in the 455 intervention districts that were part of the Union Health Ministry's 100-day intensified TB elimination campaign launched on December 7 last year. The campaign was launched in 33 States and Union Territories to screen and test for TB among people belonging to the vulnerable or high-risk groups.

"The 100-day TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan is an outcome of a new strategy for early TB identification involving offering X-ray screening to high-risk populations, such as individuals with diabetes and people living with HIV. By deploying ultraportable hand-held X-ray units and conducting door-to-door screenings, both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals were tested. Positive X-ray results were then confirmed with NAAT (an advanced diagnostic test), leading to the identification of multiple asymptomatic TB patients," a senior Health Ministry official said. India faces the world's largest TB epidemic with the infection still a major public health problem. The country's TB incidence has declined by 17.7% from 2015 to 2023, according to the WHO.

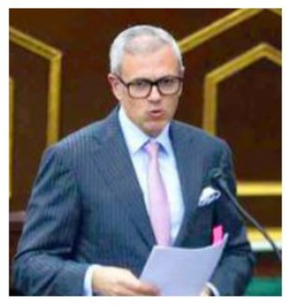
# Fashion brand apologises for holding show in Gulmarg

**Peerzada Ashiq**
SRINAGAR

The fashion brand behind Friday's fashion show in the tourist hotspot of Gulmarg in Baramulla on Monday posted an apology. Several videos of the event were withdrawn from online platforms, evoking sharp reactions from political parties and religious bodies in Kashmir.

The fashion show, organised during the holy month of Ramzan, featured models amid snow-covered slopes.

"Respect for all cultures and traditions is at the heart of our values, and we acknowledge the concerns raised. We sincerely apologize for any unintended discomfort and appreciate the feedback from our community. We remain committed to being more mindful and respectful. Our sole intention was to celebrate creativity and the ski and après-ski lifestyle, without any desire to offend anyone or any religious sentiments," Shivan & Narresh said in a post on X.


Omar Abdullah

The show evoked sharp reactions, including from Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, and J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

**No role for the govt.**

Speaking in the Assembly on Monday, Mr. Abdullah told the House that an inquiry had been initiated. "I must categorically state that the government had no involvement in this event whatsoever. A fashion show was organised by a private entity on March 7 as part of a four-day event. The government was neither approached for permission, nor did it provide any financial or logistical support. No government infrastructure was utilised and no government officials were present at the event," Mr. Abdullah said.

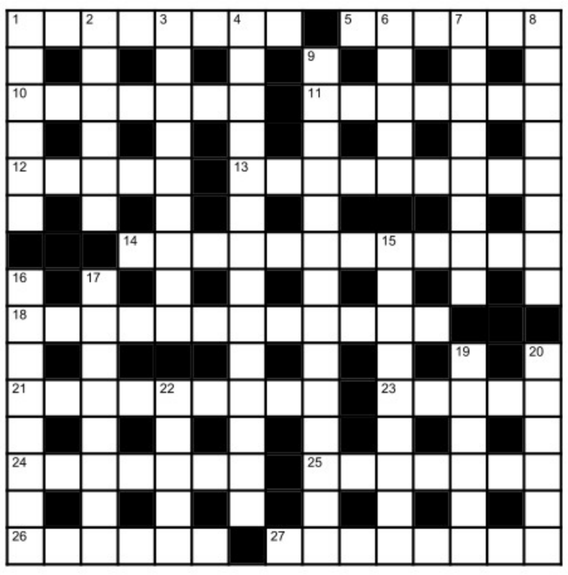
He said the event had hurt public sentiments. "The organisers failed to exercise sound judgment, disregarding the sensitivities of the people, the significance of the location, and the timing of their event," Mr. Abdullah said.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14429

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**1** Blame a metropolis for all the greed (8)
**5** Announced country's development, primarily (6)
**10** Just follow an ex-PM to this place in London (7)
**11** Foreign trade - company follows modern-style architecture (3,4)
**12** Current doctor provided initial treatment (5)
**13** Avoid routes meant for Arctic air transport (3-6)
**14** One with money has orderly routine to follow, it's too small to notice (12)
**18** Could be shifted - room to detect small stuff (5,7)
**21** Grown up, essentially very, very immoral person (9)
**23** She is surrounded by us in this location (5)
**24** Well-built side - detailed nourishment for the sick (4,3)
**25** Bar those who are antidemocratic, antinational at heart (7)
**26** Mob went crazy as women left for Bury (6)
**27** Willing to stop being in debt (8)

**Down**

**1** I'm ready to go out - not a solution (6)
**2** First person, one among many maybe a heathen (6)
**3** Tense working in an African country - is subdued (9)
**4** Professional dancer to perform - panic in Rochester, perhaps (14)
**6** Complete selling oil in France (5)
**7** Dog houses - born and brought up as a wooden peg (8)
**8** Comes down fuming - see it played in court (4,4)
**9** To remain an active revolutionary, one has to be in a way, brave (6,8)
**15** Take down criminal, only by unarmed combat (3,4,2)
**16** Extremely symbolic gathering for a game (8)
**17** Parthenon, say, captures Greek character in a jiffy (8)
**19** House with a small car below empty garage (6)
**20** Nostalgia grips even outsiders in this Asian city (6)
**22** Starting to temporarily accommodate a pole (5)

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | | | | | 7 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 5 | | | | | 9 | | | 8 |
| | 1 | | 9 | | 6 | 3 | | |
| 4 | | | 3 | | 8 | | | 9 |
| | | 7 | 2 | | 5 | | 6 | |
| 2 | | | 7 | | | | | 1 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | | | | | |
| | | 5 | | | | | | |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6455 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | A | T | E | R | P | I | L | L | A | R | | A | R | M |
| A | | A | | A | | G | | E | | O | | D | | A |
| L | I | L | A | C | | N | E | G | A | T | I | V | E | S |
| A | | I | | E | | O | | L | | T | | E | | S |
| M | I | S | E | R | A | B | L | E | | E | N | N | U | I |
| A | | M | | | | L | | S | | R | | T | | F |
| R | E | A | L | I | S | E | | S | O | D | A | | | |
| I | | N | | G | | | | | | A | | U | | A |
| | | | O | N | A | M | | A | R | M | I | G | E | R |
| B | | A | | O | | E | | L | | | | A | | S |
| R | U | L | E | R | | D | E | B | U | T | A | N | T | E |
| O | | U | | A | | U | | E | | I | | D | | N |
| W | O | M | A | N | I | S | E | R | | L | H | A | S | A |
| S | | N | | C | | A | | T | | E | | N | | T |
| E | R | A | | E | M | E | R | A | L | D | I | S | L | E |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 |

## FAITH

### Symbolism of the pot

A pot symbolises human life, said Malayaman in a discourse. In the Tamil region, when a man dies, a pot is filled with water, and the deceased man's son goes round the corpse, while another man with a sickle follows him. The man who follows makes a hole in the pot with the sickle, and when the son completes the first round, a second hole is made, and then again, a third hole is made. The pot is then broken. The pot represents the human body. The water in it is the soul. The pot being taken round the dead man is symbolic of a man's life on earth. The holes in the pot show how he spent his life – earning for his family, respecting his ancestors and so on. The broken pot shows that his life has ended.

There is another comparison we can draw between a pot and a human being. Rice is stored in large metal pots, to be used later. Likewise, the words of wise men are preserved, to guide future generations. An *atma* is given a body, so that it may not take repeated births. It must use this birth to do the right thing and attain liberation. But if the life that is given to it on the earth is not utilised rightly, then there can be no liberation for the *atma*. The cycle of births and deaths will continue. There is a Siddhar song, which says a *jivatma* begged a potter (creator), to give it a pot (a human body). But the man who was given the pot treated it carelessly, and eventually broke it. Symbolically, this means that the *jivatma*, instead of using its human life to attain *moksha*, wasted away its years, and the body that was given to it was of no use to it. Time flies, and we must think of the afterlife, even when we are young, instead of wasting time on trivial pursuits.

## INBRIEF

### Rupee weakens on risk-averse sentiment, capital outflows

The rupee depreciated by 36 paise to close at 87.31 against the U.S. dollar on Monday due to strong dollar demand in the market owing to capital outflows. On Friday, the rupee closed at 86.95 against the U.S. dollar. "The rupee weakened due to risk-averse sentiment and capital outflows. Concerns over a potential U.S. recession and Trump's tariff policies put pressure on Asian currencies," said Dilip Parmar, research analyst, HDFC Securities.

### Sun to buy U.S. oncology firm Checkpoint for $355 million

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. will acquire Nasdaq-listed Checkpoint Therapeutics, Inc, a commercial-stage firm focused on developing novel treatments for patients with solid tumor cancers, for up to $355 million. Upon completion of the transaction, Checkpoint stockholders will receive, for each share of common stock they hold, an upfront cash payment of $4.10, without interest, representing an aggregate upfront consideration of up to $355 million, Sun said.

### Iron ore output from NMDC mines hit as workers protest

State-owned miner NMDC reported 30-40% decline in daily production as workers at iron ore mines in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka resorted to protests over wages. The estimated impact on operations at Kirandul and Bacheli complexes in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka's Donimalai complex is 30-40% reduction in production per day, NMDC said, accusing trade unions of resorting to "wilful slowdown of work and work-to-rule in connection with wage settlement."

# SEBI may rejig short-selling norms

**Push for direct payout of securities may hit short-term trading strategies like buy-today-sell-tomorrow; regulator is likely to propose that stocks purchased in earlier settlements but awaiting delivery to a demat account will not count as short sales**

**Akshata Gorde**
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is considering a major revamp of short-selling regulations, potentially allowing it for all stocks excluding those in the trade-to-trade (T2T) segment.

The proposal may also scrap short-sale disclosures and penalties currently imposed by stock exchanges, sources familiar with the matter said.

Short-selling allows investors to sell a stock without owning the stock at the time – a strategy used to bet on the fall in stock prices. Currently, there is a ban on naked short-selling, with SEBI mandating investors to fulfil their obligation to deliver securities at the time of settlement.

Only stocks qualifying for futures and options (F&O) trading were allowed for short selling.

The regulator has observed that non-institutional investors continue to engage in short selling of non-F&O stocks since they can sell a stock, irrespective of its availability in the derivative segment, and square off their position within the same trading day, a source explained.

Furthermore, SEBI's push for direct payout of securities could affect short-term trading strategies like buy-today-sell-tomorrow, as securities might not be credited to demat accounts until after market hours on the following day, the source said. To address this, the regulator is likely to propose that stocks purchased in earlier settlements but awaiting delivery to the demat account will not be considered short sales. A consultation paper on the matter is expected before next week. SEBI did not respond to an emailed query.

Under current rules, institutional investors must disclose upfront if a transaction is a short sale, while retail investors must report it by the end of the trading day. Subsequently, brokers and exchanges must publish weekly scrip-wise short-sale positions.

SEBI is likely to do away with these disclosure norms, as advancements in clearing and settlement since the introduction of the Securities Lending and Borrowing (SLB) mechanism in 2007 have made them redundant, said a regulatory source.

"Since institutional investors can only engage in delivery-backed transactions, upfront short-sale disclosures serve no purpose. Requiring brokers to track retail investors' short sales requires real-time access to the client's demat account, which puts non-depository brokers at a disadvantage," an industry source explained.

Currently, trading members face penalties of 0.05% of the shortage value for failing to deliver securities, with exchanges also required to take action against brokers for settlement failures. However, SEBI may remove the exchange's enforcement role once direct payout of securities is implemented.

With clearing corporations able to track short deliveries at the client level, imposing penalties at both the exchange and clearing corporation levels could lead to double charges.

*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*

**Trade twist**

SEBI is likely to initiate a consultation paper on revamping short sales next week

- All stocks except those in the trade-to-trade segment may be allowed
- Rule for institutional, retail investors to disclose short sales to be scrapped
- Penalties by exchanges for failure of securities' delivery may be done away with
- Brokers and exchanges may not need to publish weekly short sales data

# Govt. likely to spend ₹51,463 crore more

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday tabled a statement in the Lok Sabha seeking Parliament's nod to spend a net additional ₹51,462.86 crore in the current financial year ending March.

A large chunk of the net additional expenditure will go towards pension and subsidies for fertilizers.

The net additional expenditure includes ₹14,100 crore for the Department of Fertilizers, for subsidies on urea and phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, among others. An additional ₹13,449 crore was provided for the pension of government employees, including ₹7,000 crore towards the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

# Centre begins headhunt for IRDAI chief's post as Panda is set to exit

**N. Ravi Kumar**
HYDERABAD

The Centre has set in motion the process of identifying the next Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) with incumbent Debasish Panda's three-year term coming to end in a few days.

The applicant should have a minimum of two years residual service as on date of vacancy, which is March 14, 2025, the Union Finance Ministry's Department of Financial Services (DFS) said, inviting applications. The consolidated pay and allowances for the post is ₹5,62,500 per month without house and car. The applicant should preferably have at least 30 years of relevant work experience, worked as Secretary to the Government of India or State governments or other institutions. The candidate should have a proven track record of leadership and authority in decision-making.

Applicants from the private sector should have worked as CEO or equivalent of a large financial institution, the DFS said, fixing April 6 as last date for receipt of applications.

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | MONDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 74,115 | -0.29 |
| US Dollar | 87.31 | -0.41 |
| Gold | 88,750 | -0.16 |
| Brent oil | 69.88 | — |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2228.30 | -19.20 |
| Adani Ports | 1142.90 | -1.60 |
| Apollo Hosp | 6149.60 | -66.50 |
| Asian Paints | 2278.60 | 8.60 |
| Axis Bank | 1035.85 | -1.80 |
| Bajaj Auto | 7383.40 | -191.35 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 1840.35 | -4.95 |
| Bajaj Finance | 8342.60 | -61.90 |
| Bharat Elec | 272.33 | -4.66 |
| Bharti Airtel | 1630.95 | 0.25 |
| BPCL | 256.93 | -4.33 |
| Britannia Ind | 4737.70 | -10.55 |
| Cipla | 1462.75 | 4.30 |
| Coal India | 375.15 | -5.50 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 1120.20 | -13.05 |
| Eicher Motors | 4990.55 | -110.15 |
| Grasim Ind | 2383.95 | -23.30 |
| HCL Tech | 1549.30 | -8.65 |
| HDFC Bank | 1687.50 | -1.75 |
| HDFC Life | 625.90 | 0.70 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 3582.85 | -69.65 |
| Hindalco | 689.15 | -2.20 |
| Hind Unilever | 2247.75 | 43.20 |
| ICICI Bank | 1214.85 | 0.30 |
| IndusInd Bank | 900.50 | -36.25 |
| Infosys | 1701.45 | 15.45 |
| ITC | 405.00 | 1.10 |
| JSW Steel | 1013.50 | 2.35 |
| Kotak Bank | 1921.75 | -13.65 |
| L&T | 3177.70 | -67.00 |
| M&M | 2702.60 | -25.25 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 11586.05 | -78.10 |
| NestleIndia | 2248.40 | 9.95 |
| NTPC | 329.40 | -0.15 |
| ONGC | 223.19 | -9.70 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 271.30 | 8.00 |
| Reliance Ind | 1238.40 | -11.40 |
| SBI Life | 1419.45 | 7.85 |
| State Bank | 728.90 | -3.85 |
| Shriram Finance Ltd. | 625.60 | -5.25 |
| Sun Pharma | 1611.50 | 2.20 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 957.30 | -4.75 |
| Tata Motors | 648.15 | -0.15 |
| Tata Steel | 151.05 | -0.51 |
| TCS | 3589.65 | -21.55 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1486.85 | -5.50 |
| Titan | 3026.80 | -52.55 |
| Trent Ltd. | 4799.70 | -200.15 |
| UltraTech Cement | 10520.10 | -62.30 |
| Wipro | 280.90 | -3.90 |

### EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 10

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 86.67 | 86.99 |
| Euro | 94.15 | 94.50 |
| British Pound | 112.07 | 112.49 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 58.80 | 59.03 |
| Chinese Yuan | 11.98 | 12.03 |
| Swiss Franc | 98.70 | 99.08 |
| Singapore Dollar | 65.19 | 65.44 |
| Canadian Dollar | 60.59 | 60.82 |
| Malaysian Ringitt | 19.64 | 19.72 |
| Australian Dollar | 54.68 | 54.88 |

Source:Indian Bank

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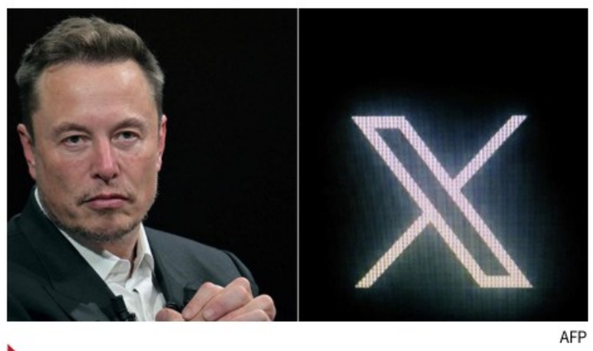
SAN FRANCISCO

## X owner Musk says platform is affected by 'massive cyberattack'



AFP

Elon Musk said his social media platform X was hit by a "massive" cyberattack on Monday as outages plagued users of the platform once known as Twitter. Musk had blamed a cyberattack, providing no evidence, for crashing the site last year when an interview with Donald Trump was to be streamed. AFP

NUUK

## U.S. President Donald Trump is 'unpredictable', says Greenland PM

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump, who wants to take over Greenland, is very erratic, the island's premier Mute Egede said on Monday, the eve of the territory's legislative elections. "There is a world order that is faltering — and U.S. President who is very unpredictable — in such a way that makes people feel insecure," he said. AFP

WASHINGTON

## Following review, U.S. to scrap 83% of USAID programmes, says Rubio

GETTY IMAGES

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Monday that after a six-week review, the U.S. was cancelling 83% of programsmes at USAID. "The 5,200 contracts that are now cancelled spent tens of billions of dollars in ways that did not serve, (and in some cases even harmed), the core national interests of the U.S", he said. AFP

DHAKA

## Nuclear inspectors review contentious Bangladesh plant

FILE PHOTO

An expert team was in Bangladesh to sign off on the country's first nuclear power plant ahead of the contentious facility's start later this year. Construction on the Russia-backed plant at Rooppur began in 2017 during former premier Sheikh Hasina, whose family has been accused of taking kickbacks from the deal. AFP

# Ukraine wants peace, says Zelenskyy, ahead of U.S. talks

Ukraine President blames Russia for the protracted war; he will meet U.S. officials in Saudi Arabia for talks on ending the war; Kremlin says it is not expecting any concrete outcome from the talks

**Agence France-Presse**
KYIV

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday ahead of talks with U.S. officials in Saudi Arabia that Kyiv wants peace and Russia is the "only reason" that the war has dragged on.

Mr. Zelenskyy is due to arrive in Saudi Arabia later on Monday, a day ahead of crucial talks between Ukrainian and U.S. officials on ending the war with Russia.

"Ukraine has been seeking peace since the very first second of the war, and we have always said that the only reason that the war is continuing is because of Russia," Mr. Zelenskyy wrote on social media ahead of the meet.

**No let-up:** Ukraine troops fire a D-30 howitzer towards Russian soldiers on a frontline in Zaporizhzhia region. REUTERS

The highly-anticipated negotiations on Tuesday on resolving the more than three-year conflict will see U.S. and Ukrainian officials meet for the first time since Mr. Zelenskyy's disastrous White House visit last month.

The Kremlin, which has praised Washington's stance on the conflict since Mr. Trump took office, said on Monday that it was not holding out for specific or concrete outcomes from the Saudi talks.

Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that the United States was likely waiting to hear from the Ukrainian side that they are ready for peace. "This is, in fact, probably what everyone is waiting for," Mr. Peskov told reporters.

# Operation against 'Assad's loyalists' is over, says Syrian Defence Ministry

**Reuters**
DUBAI

A Syrian military operation against "loyalists of ousted President Bashar al-Assad" has been completed, the Defence Ministry said on Monday, after the heaviest fighting since former rebels seized power three months ago.

Clashes between Assad loyalists and the country's new Islamist rulers in the former President's coastal heartland have killed more than 1,000 people, mostly civilians, according to a war monitoring group.

The violence has increased concerns about the direction of Syria, where former militants under Muhammad al-Jolani [Ahmed al-Sharaa] and his Hayat Tahrir al-Sham [HTS] group are attempting to unify a divided country while navigating the involvement of powerful neighbours.

**Flash point:** Forces linked to the new Islamist rulers have clashed with members of the minority Alawite sect. REUTERS

Since Mr. Assad's overthrow, Turkish-backed groups have clashed with Kurdish forces that control much of northeastern Syria. Israel has separately struck military sites in Syria, and is lobbying the U.S. to keep Syria weak, sources said.

Hassan Abdul Ghany, the Defence Ministry spokesperson, said in a statement on X that public institutions were now able to resume their work and provide services. "We are paving the way for life to return to normal and for the consolidation of security and stability," Mr. Abdul Ghany said. He added that plans were in place to continue combating the remnants of the former government and eliminate any future threats.

**Integration of SDF**

Meanwhile, The Syrian presidency announced on Monday an agreement with the head of the Kurdish-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to integrate the institutions of the semi-autonomous Kurdish administration in the northeast into the national government.

## Russia expels two British envoys over claims of espionage

**Associated Press**

Russia said on Monday it was expelling two British diplomats based at the embassy in Moscow over spying allegations that the U.K. called "malicious and baseless."

Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, said that the two diplomats had provided false personal data while seeking permission to enter the country and had engaged in alleged intelligence and subversive activities that threatened Russia's security.

According to the RIA Novosti report, a decision has been made to revoke the diplomats' accreditations and they have been ordered to leave Russia within two weeks.

The Foreign Office in London said: "This is not the first time that Russia has made malicious and baseless accusations against our staff."

**Previous expulsions**

The FSB last year accused seven British diplomats of spying. Six expulsions were announced in September, and one more in November. The U.K. called the moves at the time "baseless."

## Former U.S. diplomats hold 'cordial' meeting with Jamaat leaders in Dhaka

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

Former U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh William B. Milam and Jon Danilowicz, former Deputy Chief of Mission in the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, on Monday met with Shafiqur Rahman, the Ameer of Jamaate-Islami Bangladesh, in Dhaka.

"The meeting was extremely cordial and the two sides discussed the prevailing situation following the August uprising. Establishment of democracy, election and human rights were among the issues that were discussed frankly. Both sides affirmed that Bangladesh-U.S. relations

**The two sides discussed the prevailing situation following the August uprising, said JeI**

will become stronger in future," the JeI said in a statement. Mr. Milam is one of the leading South Asia experts in the U.S. diplomatic circles and served as the U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh during 1990-93 when Bangladesh witnessed the fall of the government of Gen. Hossein Mohammed Ershad under a movement that was jointly led by Bangladesh Nationalist Party's Khaleda Zia and Awami League's Sheikh Hasina. The fall of Gen. Ershad paved the way for the the BNP government led by Ms. Zia.

Both Mr. Danilowicz and Mr. Milam are noted for their support for dissenting views in Bangladesh during the years of the Hasina government and they extended their platform a think tank – Right to Freedom – to those who were affected by Ms. Hasina's crackdown. "We believe that dialogue and mutual understanding are essential to overcome differences and find areas of cooperation. We appreciate the opportunity we have had to engage with a diverse group of interlocutors," Mr. Danilowicz said in a social media message after the meeting.

JeI Bangladesh was banned in the first week of August 2024, before the fall of the Hasina government but the ban was reversed after the interim government took charge. Ms. Hasina often targeted JeI and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir for violent actions during her tenure and the former leader of JeI, Motiur Rahman Nizami, was executed in 2016 for his role in the genocide of 1971. Nizami was one of the five top leaders of the JEI-Bangladesh who were executed for their roles in the genocide that preceded the war of 1971 and the liberation of Bangladesh.

## Iran to consider talks on 'militarisation' of nuclear programme

**Associated Press**

Iran said on Sunday it would consider negotiations with the U.S. if the talks were confined to concerns about the militarisation of its nuclear programme.

In a statement posted on X, the country's UN mission said: "If the objective of negotiations is to address concerns vis-à-vis any potential militarisation of Iran's nuclear programme, such discussions may be subject to consideration."

A day earlier, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had rejected talks with the U.S., because he said they would be aimed at imposing restrictions on Iran's missile programme and its influence in the region.

Mr. Khamenei's remarks came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump acknowledged sending a letter to him seeking a new deal with Tehran to restrain its rapidly advancing nuclear programme.

Khamenei said U.S. demands would be both military and related to the regional influence of Iran. He said such talks would not solve problems.

# Sport

## Swiatek and Medvedev have it easy

TENNIS

**Agence France-Presse**
INDIAN WELLS

Defending champion Iga Swiatek edged closer to an unprecedented third Indian Wells WTA title Sunday, overwhelming Dayana Yastremska 6-0, 6-2 to reach the fourth round.

Swiatek's 65-minute victory set the tone on a day that saw Daniil Medvedev spend just 10 minutes on court before ailing opponent Alex Michelsen retired.

**Next challenge**

Swiatek next faces Czech Karolina Muchova, who trailed 3-5 in the first set but won 10 of the next 11 games to beat compatriot Katerina Siniakova 7-5, 6-1.

Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva and 2023 Indian Wells champion Elena Rybakina joined Swiatek in dishing out bagels as they lined up a fourth-round clash.

**In full flow:** Swiatek swept past Yastremska in 65 minutes to book a spot in the last 16. GETTY IMAGES

Andreeva, who triumphed in Dubai last month to become the youngest ever winner of a WTA 1000 event, needed 63 minutes to beat Denmark's Clara Tauson 6-3, 6-0 in a rematch of the Dubai final. Rybakina downed Britain's Katie Boulter 6-0, 7-5.

Eighth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas, coming off his first title in almost a year in Dubai, beat Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 6-3.

**The results:**

**Men singles (third round):** Tallon Griekspoor bt Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard 7-6(3), 6-3; Holger Rune bt Ugo Humbert5-7, 6-4, 7-5.

Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Matteo Berrettini 6-3, 6-3; Marcos Giron bt Alexei Popyrin 5-7, 6-3, 6-3; Tommy Paul bt Cameron Norrie 6-3, 7-5; Daniil Medvedev bt Alex Michelsen2-0 retired.

**Women:** Elena Rybakina bt Katie Boulter 6-0, 7-5; Mirra Andreeva bt Clara Tauson 6-3, 6-0; Elina Svitolina bt Danielle Collins 6-2, 6-4; Jessica Pegula bt Wang Xinyu 6-2, 6-1; Marta Kostyuk bt Caroline Dolehide 6-3, 6-3; Karolína Muchova bt Katerina Siniakova 7-5, 6-1; Iga Swiatek bt Dayana Yastremska 6-0, 6-2.

Pankaj Advani.

## Pankaj reigns supreme

**Sports Bureau**

Reigning National and Asian snooker champion Pankaj Advani scored a comeback 8-6 (15-57, 26-101, 18-75, 100-25, 36-93, 118-0, 59-68, 45-77, 64-47, 93-72, 70-60, 75-32, 73-32, 75-47) win over Ishpreet Singh Chadha in the final of the ₹13.5 lakh CCI Snooker Classic 2025 at the CCI's Wilson Jones billiards hall in Mumbai on Sunday.

Pankaj received the Trophy and a cheque of ₹3.5 lakh, while Ishpreet received ₹1.75 lakh.

## Juventus has no answers to Atalanta's attacking might

EURO LEAGUES

**Reuters**
TURIN

Atalanta stunned Juventus as it cruised to a 4-0 away win on Sunday to strengthen its grip on third place in Serie A while snapping the host's five-game winning streak in the league. Gian Piero Gasperini's side moved to 58 points, three behind leader Inter Milan, while Juventus remains fourth on 52.

It was Juventus' first home defeat in Serie A by a margin of at least four goals since 1967, leaving frustrated fans at the Allianz Stadium jeering their team after a night to forget.

Meanwhile, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta was visibly agitated after his team could only salvage a 1-1 draw with Manchester United in a result that critics said might have sounded the death knell of his team's Premier League chances.

**Too good:** Atalanta scored four past Juventus. REUTERS

Real Madrid coach Carlos Ancelotti was a happy man after his side moved level on points with Barcelona at the top of LaLiga with a 2-1 home win over Rayo Vallecano.

**Top results: Serie A:** Empoli 0 lost to Roma 1 (Soule 1); Juventus 0 lost to Atalanta 4 (Retegui 29-pen, De Roon 46, Zappacosta 66, Lookman 77).

**LaLiga:** Athletic Bilbao 1 (Nico Williams 58) drew with Real Mallorca 1 (Raillo 56); Real Sociedad 0 lost to Sevilla 1 (Ejuke 46).

JUST REWARD

## Kohli, five other Indians in ICC 'Team of the Tournament'

ANI

Virat Kohli is among six Indians chosen in the ICC 'Team of the Tournament' for the Champions Trophy. **The team:** Rachin Ravindra, Ibrahim Zadran, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, Glenn Phillips, Azmatullah Omarzai, Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Varun Chakaravarthy, Mohammed Shami, Matt Henry. **12th man:** Axar Patel.

CRYSTAL CLEAR

## All about understanding your role and delivering for the team: Rahul

GETTY IMAGES

"I've been taught from a very early age that whatever the team requires of you, you need to be able to accept that and find a way to put in performances for the team and understand what your role is, understand what it takes to be successful batting in different positions," K.L. Rahul after India's Champions Trophy triumph.

TOUGH COOKIE

## My mindset is to never run away from challenges, says Hardik

AFP

Hardik Pandya was forced to take up new-ball duties in the Champions Trophy, and the all-rounder said his natural fighting abilities helped him adjust to the new role. "My mindset is to never run away from challenges. I have always believed that if the challenges are tough, throw some punches".

NO MOOD TO QUIT

## Jadeja quells retirement rumours with an Instagram post

REUTERS

Ravindra Jadeja dismissed rumours over his potential retirement following India's win in the Champions Trophy final. Virat Kohli hugging Jadeja at the end of his spell sparked speculation that he was calling it quits. However, Jadeja made it clear with a message on Instagram, "No unnecessary rumours, thanks".

# Team India enjoys the fruits of meticulous planning

Out-of-the-box thinking and collective effort pave the way for Rohit & Co.'s success; Men in Blue are the pre-eminent force in the limited-overs format and could well go down in history as one of the most successful sides

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

**S. Dipak Ragav**
DUBAI

**Game-changer:** Varun's eleventh hour inclusion proved to be a masterstroke. AP

It had been 12 years since M.S. Dhoni led India to its second Champions Trophy triumph in 2013.

While the Men in Blue have been one of the most consistent sides in the 50-over format, failing to go the distance in an ICC event had taken the sheen off it.

The side came within one win of ending that drought two years ago during the World Cup but fell at the final hurdle after winning every match until then.

When Rohit Sharma lifted the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 following India's four-wicket win over New Zealand in the final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday, it was just reward for one of the strongest teams in modern-day cricket.

Since 2022, India has been the standout outfit in ODIs, winning 49 out of the 70 games – the most by any team.

Over the last three weeks, Rohit's men showed why they are the top-ranked side in the world. They steamrollered every opponent and finished on top.

More impressive than the victory was how the team went about its business. It was a stirring campaign planned meticulously but flexible enough to think out of the box and take bold calls.

Right from the selection process, the management got everything spot on. At the eleventh hour, Varun Chakaravarthy came in as a fifth spin option keeping in view Dubai's slow and sluggish pitches. That Varun replaced a batter (Yashasvi Jaiswal) surprised many.

One rarely witnesses four spinners play an active role in the limited-overs format. Yet, there was a willingness to experiment, which proved to be a masterstroke and a game-changer in the last three matches, including the semifinal and final.

The decision was boosted by the fact that Rohit's squad had three genuine all-rounders (Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel) in the starting XI who can swing contests with the bat on their own and also bowl the full quota of overs, allowing the captain the flexibility to play around with his combination.

While the off-field calls are just one part of the equation, the key is the on-field execution, and all the 12 players (India just made just one change in the entire competition, bringing in Varun for Harshit Rana) left a lasting impression.

"We saw that the people who got the ball played their role. The players who got the opportunity to bat won the game. We didn't see only one player making runs in the tournament," said Rohit.

"People made their small contributions. We knew that wickets were a bit challenging here and they wouldn't be easy for everyone. So, it is very important to make contributions from top to bottom, which we did very well."

Though there is no denying that India had a slight advantage playing at only one venue – helping players acclimatise – to attribute that as the key reason for the success would be a huge disservice to the high-quality cricket played.

The fact that India reached the summit clash of the last three ICC white-ball tournaments ('23 ODI World Cup, '24 T20 World Cup and '25 Champions Trophy) and has lost only one game while taking home two titles shows that the Men in Blue are the pre-eminent force in the limited-overs format and could well go down in history as one of the most successful sides.

## Rahul and Shreyas – unsung heroes in the journey to glory

**S. Dipak Ragav**
DUBAI

**Proving their worth:** Rahul and Shreyas came good at critical junctures for India. PTI

India's Champions Trophy victory has been a complete team effort in which everyone has stepped up at different points to make vital contributions.

While the hundreds from Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill, or the five-wicket hauls of Mohammed Shami and Varun Chakaravarathy will be discussed in the coming days, there have been quite a few unsung heroes.

K.L. Rahul and Shreyas Iyer were two such players whose consistent performances made some nervy chases look much more straightforward than they were.

Rahul moved down to No. 6 to accommodate a left-hander in Axar Patel at his old spot and have a left-right mix in the line-up. It meant he had to reinvent his game, often needing to be aggressive immediately and put the pressure back on the bowlers.

Rahul scored a vital unbeaten 34 in the final. More impressively, the 32-year-old stayed till the end while chasing and got the job done on all three occasions.

"It requires a lot of preparation and work outside the cricket field, just sitting and thinking about how I need to take each game and how I need to perform in different situations. I watched some of the players that I liked and saw how successful they had been. I am happy that I've been given different tools and I have been able to perform," he said.

Similarly, Shreyas reinforced his credentials as one of the best No.4-batter in the world, topping the run charts for the Men in Blue with 243 runs. Skipper Rohit Sharma even called the Mumbai batter a 'silent hero.'

"Throughout the tournament he was brilliant and important to us in that middle phase. He stitched partnerships with all the batters who were batting with him. With Virat, in the semifinal against Australia and also against Pakistan. Even today (on Sunday), to be honest, when I got out, we had lost three wickets. And at that time, we needed a partnership of 50 to 70 runs, which (Axar) and Shreyas did," said Rohit.

### The sizzlers (Champions Trophy 2025)

| Batting | M | Runs | HS | Avg | SR | 100s/50s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rachin (NZ) | 4 | 263 | 112 | 65.75 | 106.47 | 2/0 |
| Shreyas (Ind) | 5 | 243 | 79 | 48.60 | 79.41 | 0/2 |
| Duckett (Eng) | 3 | 227 | 165 | 75.66 | 108.61 | 1/0 |
| Root (Eng) | 3 | 225 | 120 | 75.00 | 96.56 | 1/1 |
| Kohli (Ind) | 5 | 218 | 100* | 54.50 | 82.88 | 1/1 |

| Bowling | M | Wkts | BB | Avg | Econ | 4W/5W |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Henry (NZ) | 4 | 10 | 5/42 | 16.70 | 5.32 | 0/1 |
| Varun (Ind) | 3 | 9 | 5/42 | 15.11 | 4.53 | 0/1 |
| Shami (Ind) | 5 | 9 | 5/53 | 25.88 | 5.68 | 0/1 |
| Santner (NZ) | 5 | 9 | 3/43 | 26.66 | 4.80 | 0/0 |
| Bracewell (NZ) | 5 | 8 | 4/26 | 25.12 | 4.10 | 1/0 |

# MI ekes out narrow win against Giants, boosts chances of making final directly

WPL

**Vivek Krishnan**
MUMBAI

**Leading from the front:** Harmanpreet's 33-ball 54 took MI to a competitive total. EMMANUAL YOGINI

In a game that ebbed and flowed right through, Mumbai Indians sneaked to victory by nine runs against Gujarat Giants in front of a partisan crowd at the Brabourne Stadium on Monday. The host's win in the first match of the Mumbai leg in this year's Women's Premier League (WPL) enhances its chances of qualifying directly for Saturday's final.

MI, which has 10 points after seven matches, can usurp Delhi Capitals for the top spot if it beats Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Tuesday. Chasing 180, Bharti Fulmali's entertaining 25-ball 61 gave GG a glimmer, but the lack of worthwhile contributions from the top-order was its undoing.

Needing 68 runs from the final five overs with four wickets in hand, GG was staring down the barrel. But Fulmali wasn't ready to give in just yet. The 30-year-old wielded the long handle to devastating effect, helping the visitor take 13 runs off the 16th over and 17 off the 17th over. Even after her dismissal, Simran Shaikh and Tanuja Kanwer whacked a few boundaries.

That MI reached the total it did was largely down to Harmanpreet Kaur's 54. It had ambled to 46 for two in seven overs before Harmanpreet and Nat Sciver-Brunt injected some momentum into the innings with a 59-run stand in 40 deliveries.

A shot in the arm in MI's quest to up the ante came in the ninth over, when Priya Mishra was dispatched for three fours. A full toss was reverse swept by Harmanpreet past short third while Sciver-Brunt pierced the gaps by employing the cut and sweep shots.

After Sciver-Brunt was caught and bowled by Ashleigh Gardner, Harmanpreet ensured with the lower middle-order that the rate of scoring did not drop. The team added 40 runs off the last three overs.

**The scores:** Mumbai Indians 179/6 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 54, Nat Sciver-Brunt 38) bt Gujarat Giants 170 in 20 overs (Bharti Fulmali 61, Amelia Kerr 3/34, Shabnim Ismail 2/17, Hayley Matthews 3/38).
**Toss:** GG. **PoM:** Harmanpreet.
**Tuesday's match:** MI vs RCB, 7.30 p.m.

# Pranav determined to breach 2700 mark, compete in the Candidates

**S. Prasanna Venkatesan**
CHENNAI

**Memorable moment:** Pranav with his big reward. X@GM_PRANAV_V

V. Pranav, the newly-crowned World junior chess champion, said on Monday that he had a "different experience" playing the u-20 championship at Petrovac (Montenegro).

"I was playing a classical tournament after a long time with the same age players because I had been playing a lot of Opens recently. So, I wasn't sure how I would play against them. It was a very different experience for me.

"I avoided some mistakes I had made in the previous tournaments and that helped me a lot. I could see the difference.

"For instance, in the Qatar Masters Open, I wasn't converting winning positions. Here, when I was in better positions, I took extra time to calculate well," he told *The Hindu* over a phone call.

He added that despite knowing that a draw would be enough in the "mentally difficult" last game (11th round), he chose to play a complicated variation which he thought reflected his fighting spirit and style.

"I knew that a draw would be enough. Since it was a World title, I was a bit nervous. I could've played a simple game, but I chose a very complicated variation. The game had only 18 moves, but it was very complicated. I had to calculate and play accurately. If I wanted a draw and played accordingly, it wouldn't have been my style. Maybe, it would've backfired."

Speaking about the special appreciation he received from Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand, he said: "He said that he also had a similar scenario (of needing only a draw) in the last game when he won the World Juniors (in 1987)!"

The 18-year-old, who hopes to play the World Cup and the Candidates, said he aims to reach 2700 Elo (current Elo 2615) this year. "Usually, people who win the World juniors get a World Cup spot. And this year's World Cup is happening in India! Also, if you win the World juniors, you get invited to a lot of closed tournaments. Hopefully, I will be able to perform well in such tournaments. I will try to reach 2700 (Elo) by this year.

"Also, I want to qualify for the World cycle. Either through the World Cup or some other way, I somehow want to get to the Candidates," he said.

# Real, Liverpool and Barca have a slender lead to protect

The three teams only have a one-goal advantage going into their second-leg clash against Atletico, PSG and Benfica respectively; Bayern and Arsenal have ample breathing space

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press

Defending champion Real Madrid, Liverpool and Barcelona all have one-goal leads to protect going into the second leg of the Champions League round-of-16 this week.

For Madrid there is also city bragging rights at stake as it visits Atletico Madrid on Wednesday with a 2-1 advantage from the first leg, while Liverpool hosts Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday knowing it was fortunate to snatch a 1-0 win in France.

Barcelona also only has a 1-0 advantage over Benfica, while some other teams are feeling a lot more comfortable – with Bayern Munich having beaten Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 and Arsenal crushing PSV Eindhoven 7-1.

**Build a wall:** Liverpool defenders have a task at hand in the second leg against PSG. REUTERS

Arne Slot's team had to withstand a barrage of attacks at Parc des Princes before a late goal from Harvey Elliott, who had only just come off the bench, saw it stun PSG. That was only Liverpool's second attempt on target compared to a whopping 28 for PSG.

Leverkusen is also still involved in two trophies domestically. Although it would need something of a miracle to make up the eight-point deficit it has to Bayern in the Bundesliga as well as overturn a three-goal disadvantage in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Inter Milan has a 2-0 advantage over Feyenoord going into Tuesday's second leg. Barcelona's match-up against Benfica also takes place on Tuesday. Arsenal is not the only English club that should feel confident going into Wednesday. Fellow Premier League side Aston Villa is also at home and has a 3-1 advantage over Club Brugge. The match-up between Lille and Borussia Dortmund in France is the only one that is level after a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

**The schedule**

**Tuesday:** Barcelona vs Benfica *(11.15 p.m.)*, Bayer Leverkusen vs Bayern Munich, Inter Milan vs Feyenoord Rotterdam, Liverpool vs Paris Saint-Germain *(all matches at 1.30 a.m. Wednesday)*.

**Wednesday:** Lille vs Borussia Dortmund *(11.15 p.m.)*, Arsenal vs PSV Eindhoven, Aston Villa vs Club Brugge, Atletico Madrid vs Real Madrid *(all matches at 1.30 a.m. Thursday)*.

# Record prize pool for annual HI awards

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hockey India announced a record prize pool of ₹12 crore for its seventh annual awards for which 32 players have been nominated across eight categories. The event is scheduled to be held on Saturday here.

This year's awards will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Indian men World Cup victory on the same date in 1975, the country's first and only World title to date. 2025 also marks 100 years of Indian hockey.

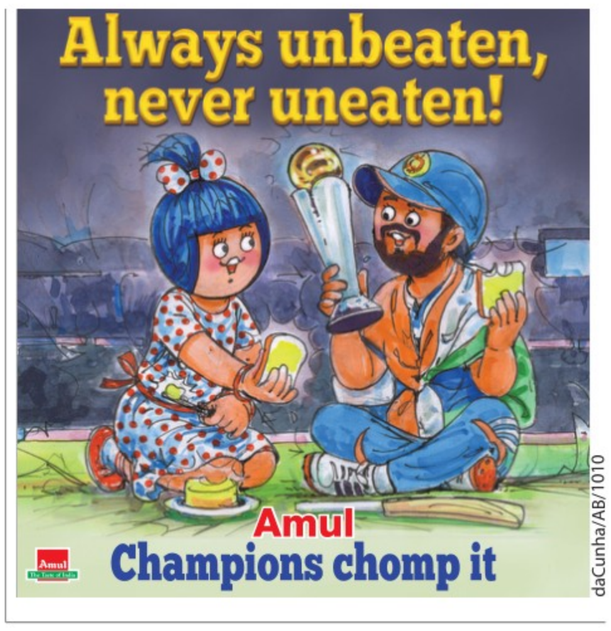
India's Olympic bronze medal-winning team will be felicitated, along with the men and women teams that won the Asian Champions Trophy last year.

**The nominees:**

**Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year: Women:** Savita Punia, Salima Tete, Sangita Kumari, Navneet Kaur.
**Men:** Abhishek, Hardik Singh, Harmanpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh.
**Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year:** Bichu Devi Kharibam, Krishan Bahadur Pathak, P.R. Sreejesh, Savita.
**Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year:** Sanjay, Amit Rohidas, Harmanpreet Singh, Udita.
**Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year:** Jarmanpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Nilakanta Sharma, Sumit.
**Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year:** Lalremsiami, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Navneet Kaur.
**Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (women under-21):** Beauty Dungdung, Deepika, Vaishnavi Vithal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo.
**Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (men under-21):** Arshdeep Singh, Amir Ali, Shardanand Tiwari, Araijeet Singh Hundal.

LIVE TELECAST

**WPL**: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**ISL:** Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**Champions League:** Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)




daCunha/AB/1010

## INBRIEF

### Brook pulls out of IPL deal with DC, faces two-year ban

England batter Harry Brook faces a two-year ban from the IPL after pulling out of his deal with Delhi Capitals. Brook, who has made himself unavailable for the second straight season, apologised "unreservedly" to the franchise and its supporters. He had withdrawn from the 2024 edition following the death of his grandmother.

### Indian gold rush at Spanish Para Badminton International

Paris Paralympics champion Nitesh Kumar and Sukant Kadam secured gold medals in SL3 and SL4 categories at the Spanish Para Badminton International 2025-II in Vitoria. In SH6 category, Nithyashre won, while Nitesh and Tarun beat Jagadesh Dilli and Naveen Sivakumar for the title in men's doubles. In mixed doubles, Krishna Nagar and Nithyashre took gold in the SH6 category, while Nitesh Kumar and Manisha Ramadass won in SL3-SU5. Alphia James took the women's silver.

### Mohammedan, Punjab sign off with a draw

Mohammedan SC and Punjab FC played out a 2-2 draw in their final ISL match in Kolkata on Monday.

**The result:** Mohammedan SC 2 (Schmerbock 58, Hansda 66) drew with Punjab FC 2 (Vidal 9, Majcen 53).

# Nitin betters own record

Sports Bureau

Nitin Gupta of Uttar Pradesh bettered his 5,000m race walk under-18 National record on his way to gold in the 20th National youth athletics championships in Patna on Monday.

Karnataka's P. Chiranth and Haryana's Aarti won the boys' and girls' 100m.

**The results (under-18, winners only): Boys: 100m:** P. Chiranth (Kar) 10.89s. **400m:** Saket Minj (Jha) 47.63s.
**High jump:** Afroz Ahmad (Jha) 2.04m. **Discus throw:** Nishchay (Har) 62.14m. **5,000m race walk:** Nitin Gupta (UP) 19:24.48s NR, OR own, 20:01.64, 2024).
**Girls: 100m:** Aarti (Har) 12.23s. **400m:** Edwina Jason (TN) 55.86s. **Shot put:** Joy Baidwan (Pun) 14.04m. **3,000m race walk:** Yogita (Har) 13:55.50s.

## BENGALURU ROUND-UP

### Big win for Cavaliers CC

Cavaliers CC whipped Jayanagar United Cricketers by nine wickets in the KSCA Group I, division III league.
**The scores:** Jayanagar Cricketers 233/8 in 35 overs (Sean Pratyush Cyril 38, Imran Khan 26, Mirza Waseem Baig 65, Prithviraj 28) bt South End SC 91 in 21.1 overs (Prithviraj 3/23).
Bangalore SC 210 in 47.5 overs (Nilesh Khilare 41, Nithin Naidu 39, Sujay Kulkarni 27 n.o., M.N. Vikas 3/38) lost to Hammonds CC 213/6 in 46.1 overs (K.S. Bharath 44, Dhanush Subramanya 25, N.G. Kushal 41, Sanjay Raja 27 n.o.).
City Gymkhana 233 in 40.1 overs (Chandrashekar Shastre 72, V. Manikanta 30, S. Chinmay 3/38) bt Friends XI (Doddaballapura) 162 in 34.2 overs (Nishchinth Parmashwar 36, Abid Ali 43, S. Chethan 5/17).
Jayanagar United Cricketers 179 in 49.4 overs (Jagadesh Babu Thangavelu 33, Sunil Kaushik 59, Shreyas Sengupta 5/70, Yogesh Kumar 3/17) lost to Cavaliers CC 183/1 in 28.5 overs (Samith Prabhu 72 n.o., Mithesh Madhan 94).

### Niyanth stuns Rashien

Unseeded M. Niyanth defeated second seed Rashien Samuel 6-2, 6-7(4) 7-6(3) in the opening round of the CRS-AITA prize money tennis tournament sponsored by KPB Trust and Jagadish Chandani at the Tennis Advantage court.

### Income Tax FC posts win

Income Tax FC edged out Jawahar Union 2-1 in the BDFA 'A' division football league here on Monday.
**The results: BDFA A div.:** Income Tax FC bt Jawahar Union FC 2-1; BTM FC bt Young Challengers FC 3-0.
**C div.:** Nadaprabhu Kempegowda FC bt Nationals FC 1-0; Freedom FC bt Bagalakunte FC 4-1.

# Mumbai City will strive to get the all important point

ISL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Mumbai City FC will be desperate for the solitary point it needs to qualify for the Indian Super League playoffs when it meets Bengaluru FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Tuesday. Placed seventh, Mumbai is currently tied with Odisha on 33 points in sixth position, the last knockout berth.

With both matches between the sides having ended in draws, Odisha's superior goal difference (+7 to Mumbai's -1) will prove decisive if Mumbai loses to BFC.

Jon Toral. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The host, on the other hand, is sitting pretty, having sealed third spot and thus earned a home tie in the single-legged playoff which will be played later this month. Though it is equal with NorthEast United FC and Jamshedpur FC on 38 points, BFC has a better head-to-head record against NorthEast and a superior goal difference in the two fixtures with Jamshedpur. Mumbai come into the match having collected just two points from the last four games. The onus will be on Greek forward Nikos Karelis (nine goals and an assist) and midfielders like Brandon Fernandes, Jon Toral and Yoell Van Nieff to deliver.

With qualification sealed, BFC may ring in some changes, especially with talisman Sunil Chhetri back in the National team and expected to be active over the next couple of weeks for India. Testing its bench might be a good idea.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